MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 APRIL 1983

PLO Affairs

'Arafat Activities, PLO-Jordanian Talks -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat departed Amman for Kuwait where he chaired a Fatah Central Committee meeting that reviewed the results of his talks with Jordan's King Husayn as well as the PLO Executive Committee's recent statement rejecting President Reagan's Middle East plan, according to KUNA and Riyadh radio reports. Earlier, a Jordanian official statement broadcast by Amman radio affirmed that the 'Arafat-Husayn talks were held in a "fraternal and constructive spirit" and that the two sides agreed to follow up their discussions when 'Arafat returns to Amman. A PLO spokesman in Kuwait described reports of a dispute within the Executive Committee as "bad press and untrue," according to KUNA. 'Arafat likewise denied the existence of obstacles in the way of a PLO-Jordanian agreement and affirmed that a joint statement will be issued, KUNA noted. 'Arafat's adviser, Nabil Sha'th, told the Saudi paper AL-BILAD that 'Arafat's talks with Husayn resulted in a joint agreement on the nature of the forthcoming Jordanian-Palestinian political moves, SPA reported. According to Sha'th, 'Arafat told Husayn that the Palestinians are ready to accept the Reagan plan if it includes amendments suggested by the PLO. 'Arafat will brief Saudi King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the results of his talks with Husayn, Sha'th also disclosed.

Jordanian, Syrian Press Comment -- Amman's AD-DUSTUR stressed that any PLO-Jordanian agreement must receive all possible Arab support to make it effective. Another Jordanian paper, SAWT ASH-SHA'B, said the forthcoming Arab summit will be meaningless without a PLO-Jordanian agreement, according to Amman radio's press review. Meanwhile, Syria's AL-BA'TH criticized "Arab sides" attempting to "ride the U.S. bandwagon" on the basis of the Reagan plan and predicted that Syria will be able to block such designs with the assistance of the Soviet Union, according to an editorial reported by Damascus radio.

Jordan

King Husayn will visit Cairo after Egyptian President Husni Mubarak returns from his Asian tour, INA disclosed. Political sources in Amman said Husayn will brief Mubarak on his talks with PLO leader 'Arafat, INA added. Monitored Jordanian and Egyptian media have not confirmed the visit. Meanwhile, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Amman with a message from King Fahd to Husayn dealing with the Palestinian-Jordanian talks, INA also reported.

In another development Senate President Ahmad at-Tarawinah and National Consultative Council Speaker Sulayman 'Arar met with a Jordanian-Soviet friendship delegation and discussed the Middle East situation as well as bilateral relations, according to Amman radio.

Inter-Arab Affairs

M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Tunis with invitations for Tunisia, PLO officials, and the Arab League secretary general to participate in the emergency Arab summit to be held in Morocco "in the next few days," Rabat radio announced. Boucetta explained that the summit participants will evaluate the Middle East situation and examine future joint Arab action, the radio added. The Moroccan official also handed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid a message from Moroccan King Hassan II on the convening of the summit, according to Algiers radio. Meanwhile, a

Riyadh radio commentary said the holding of an Arab summit has become "urgent" because of Israeli "designs" to frustrate plans for a just Middle East peace.

Israel

Relations With U.S. -- Israel regards with "gravity" the Reagan administration's encouragement for King Husayn's talks with Yasir 'Arafat and considers that the United States is thereby indirectly recognizing a PLO role in the peace process, Jerusalem radio reported. A Cabinet minister cited by the radio said Israel can no longer be satisfied with a verbal reaction to U.S. policy toward Israel since the Reagan administration has "bared its teeth" and has contradicted statements made to Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Washington.

West Bank -- Security forces have arrested a "large number" of Arab inhabitants in connection with the organized campaign over the "poisoning" of students, MA'ARIV reported.

Lebanon

The 26th round of tripartite negotiations held in Khaldah dealt with security arrangements and mutual relations and were "unofficial," according to a Lebanese Information Ministry dispatch reported by Beirut radio. Jerusalem radio later reported that "progress" had been made regarding the issue of joint patrols in southern Lebanon.

Gulf Oil Slick

Iran's environment protection chief, Reza Hoseyn Mirza Taheri, told a press conference in Kuwait that Iran hopes to shut down the leaking Nowruz oil wells within 20 days if the ministerial council of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment approves this at its 6 April meeting in Kuwait, KUNA reported. Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti president of the organization announced that international experts have agreed to recap the well if work safety is assured by an Iranian-Iraqi accord, according to another KUNA report. The Baghdad paper ATH-THAWRAH confirmed the Iraqi view that measures to stop the oil flow into the Gulf require agreement on a limited ceae-fire, according to a 5 April editorial reported by INA. However, Iraq has the right to stipulate that such a cease-fire should be synchronized with measures to ensure that Iran does not benefit from the truce for "aggressive purposes," ATH-THAWRAH added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

As part of a new Kuwaiti effort to end the Iran-Iraq war, a Kuwaiti envoy departed for Moscow and Washington to deliver messages to Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov and President Reagan, KUNA reported.

Iran

Soviet Official's Arrival -- A Soviet Foreign Ministry official arrived in Tehran for talks with Iranian officials on bilateral relations, Tehran radio announced.

Musavi on Kordestan -- Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi told Iranian officials that Kordestan and other Kurdish regions "have a special significance" for the Iranian Government and that "effective steps" will be taken in the future to establish security, Tehran radio reported. He said "counterrevolutionaries" have prevented the inhabitants of these areas from receiving government assistance "in a suitable way."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS FATAH COMMITTEE MEETING IN KUWAIT

LD052254 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] A meeting of the Central Committee of the Palestine liberation movement Fatah began in Kuwait tonight under the chairmanship of Yasir 'Arafat.

It was learned from committee sources that the committee will be discussing at this meeting -- which is the second to be held in Kuwait within the last 4 months -- the results of 'Arafat's talks with the king of Jordan, current developments in the Palestinian issue, and the statement of the Executive Committee which was issued in Amman the day before yesterday, which stated the committee's rejection of U.S. President Reagan's plan for the settlement of the Middle East crisis.

AFP: Amman Talks Reviewed

NC060957 Paris AFP in English 0848 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 6 (AFP) -- The Central Committee of Fatah, the predominant group within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), ended a meeting here early today under the chairmanship of PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat that focused on recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman. The session came during a 48-hour pause in the talks that was announced in [words indistinct] to allow time formulate a joint communique. The statement, according to senior PLO officials, could be issued when Mr 'Arafat returns to the Jordanian capital.

Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn conferred four times in Amman in an effort to reach an accord that would allow Jordan to participate in Middle East peace negotiations. But the delay in issuing the communique and ambiguous remarks by PLO leaders suggested that certain hard-line members within the organization's Executive Committee objected to the terms in the proposed statement.

PLO sources said the hardliners wanted Jordan and the PLO to condemn U.S. President Ronald Reagan's Middle East peace plan, but that Amman refused, arguing that the ideas constituted a step forward.

No details were available of the Central Committee session here, although the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories and the possibility of an Arab summit later this month were also said to have been discussed.

Mr 'Arafat was expected later today to brief the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, and Ahmed Ben Saouda, a delegate of King Hassan II of Morocco, on the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue.

According to unconfirmed reports, the PLO chief was also expected to travel to Saudi Arabia before returning to Amman.

KUNA: PLO Denies Dispute

LD052105 Kuwait KUNA in English 1813 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 5 (KUNA) -- Palestine Liberation Organization Tuesday denied reports that a dispute among members of PLO Executive Committee had erupted and consequently led to an absence of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian joint communique following talks between Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan.

A Palestinian official spokesman termed the reported carried by some media as "bad press and untrue".

"The talks are still underway," the spokesman said and added that a press communique issued in Amman earlier Tuesday concerning the Palestinian-Jordanian talks "reiterates this fact".

On arrival here from Amman today Chairman 'Arafat said the talks were progressing in the Jordanian capital and that a statement would be released when the negotiations were completed.

'Arafat 'in Good Health'

JN060906 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Apr (SANA) -- A responsible Palestinian source has dismissed reports disseminated yesterday that Yasir 'Arafat was admitted to As-Sabah Hospital suffering from exhaustion immediately upon his arrival in Kuwait yesterday, stressing that 'Arafat is in good health. The source asserted in a statement to AS-SIYASAH that the Fatah Central Committee's emergency meeting, over which 'Arafat presided and which dragged on until dawn today, is irrefutable evidence that 'Arafat is in perfect health.

'ARAFAT MEETS WITH MOROCCAN ROYAL ADVISER

LD060927 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0913 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Apr (KUNA) -- PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat early this morning had a meeting with Ahmed Ben Saouda, adviser of King Hassan II of Morocco. No official information is available about what took place at the meeting, but it is believed that the Palestinian (?agreement) to hold an extraordinary Arab summit was a subject of discussion.

SPA: 'ARAFAT READY FOR REAGAN PLAN WITH 'AMENDMENTS'

LD052151 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2114 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Apr (SPA) -- Dr Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that Yasir 'Arafat will inform his Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of the results of the talks he conducted with the Jordanian monarch, His Majesty King Husayn. 'Arafat will also contact the leaders of the rest of the GCC states in order to inform them of the latest development in the Jordanian-Palestinian talks before the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Morocco in the next few days.

Dr Nabil Sha'th said in a statement to AL-BILAD to be published tomorrow that Yasir 'Arafat's talks with the Jordanian monarch resulted in a joint agreement on the nature of joint Jordanian-Palestinian moves in the coming stage. He said that this agreement provides the presentation of the broad lines of the point of departure for the joint Jordanian-Palestinian move.

He said that 'Arafat assured the Jordanian monarch of the Palestinians' readiness to accept U.S. President Reagan's plan is the amendments which the PLO requested are included. He added that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides had agreed to wait before giving any reply to the U.S. Administration pending the outcome of the Palestinian-Arab consultations and what will be decided at the extraordinary Arab summit in this respect.

KHALIL AL-WAZIR ON POW'S, HUSAYN-'ARAFAT TALKS

LD051224 Kuwait KUNA in English 1051 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 5 (KUNA) -- The deputy general commander of the Palestinian revolutionary forces, Khalil al-Wazir, has affirmed that the PLO-Israeli negotiations on the exchange of prisoners have neared completion. In a telephone interview with AL-WATAN daily published here Tuesday, Al-Wazir (better known by his codename Abu Jihad) added that the Israeli enemy has finally admitted that 41 detainees who were not included in the list of prisoners in the Ansar camp were detained in Wing 31. He pointed out that Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's special envoy to the region has [word indistinct] the progress of the exchange operation.

The PLO official reiterated the Palestinian conditions which stipulate the release of all detainees at the Ansar concentration camp in south Lebanon in addition to 1,000 Palestinians imprisoned in Israeli jails and the return of files and documents stolen from the Palestinian Research Center in Beirut.

Asked on whether discussion between the Jordanian monarch and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tackled formation of a joint delegation to Mideast peace talks, Abu Jihad said that "it is too early to engage in details of the talks". He affirmed, however, that nothing of that sort was debated but only consultation was held on the nature of the Palestinian-Jordanian moves on the basis of the Fes charter. The moves will be tabled at the forthcoming Arab summit conference which is expected to convene between April 17-18, he said, adding that contacts with Arab capitals are under way to ensure a unified Arab stance.

The deputy commander denied reports on PLO-American indirect contacts through telephone calls between King Husayn and President (?Reagan) during the ongoing Husayn-'Arafat talks.

Abu Jihad explained that the PLO Executive Committee was summoned for an urgent meeting in Amman primarily to discuss the latest serious development in the occupied territories, namely the attack on Islamic mosques and the mass poisoning which fall in line with the Zionist terror campaign launched against the Palestinian people. The committee's meeting was further dedicated to debating the organization's political and non-political steps in retaliation to the savage offensive particularly within the occupied lands.

Finally, the conferees were assembled to study the outcome of the Husayn-'Arafat talks, Abu Jihad said, adding that they evaluated the current stage through which the Palestinian revolution is passing.

The military commander pledged "we will not surrender to Israeli terrorism and organized genocide" and the revolution will not permit the Israeli enemy to [words indistinct] Palestinian people despite dear sacrifices.

AL-FAHUM: 'ARAFAT TO RETURN TO AMMAN 'IN 48 HOURS'

JN051436 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] PNC Chairman Khalid al-Fahum has said that 'Arafat will hold contacts with Arab officials in Kuwait and return to the Jordanian capital within the next 48 hours. Al-Fahum said that the Jordanina-Palestinian talks have not ended and that the official statement on these talks will not be issued before 'Arafat's return.

Al-Fahum stressed the special relations between Jordan and the PLO and asserted that more understanding and coordination between the two is necessary at this critical stage. He said that Jordan and the PLO need full support from all Arab states.

AL-HASAN: ISRAEL TO STRIKE AT PAKISTANI REACTOR

GF031634 Doha QNA in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 3 Apr (QNA) -- Khalid al-Hasan, political adviser of the PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has revealed a plan being prepared by the Israeli enemy to strike at the Pakistani nuclear reactor. In a lecture at the UAE university in Al-'Ayn last night, he said that the PLO informed Pakistan of this plan of the basis of a document obtained by the PLO on the intentions of the Zionist enemy to carry out an operation similar to its operation against the Iraqi nuclear reactor. He added that the enemy is ready to carry out this operation after conducting training on it in An-Naqb desert in occupied Palestine.

Khalid al-Hasan spoke about developments in the Middle East problem and expressed his belief that there will not be any settlement to this crisis for at least 2 years. He referred in this regard to the necessity of a consensus between the two superpowers. Khalid al-Hasan warned against the objectives of the Zionist enemy aimed at creating disputes between Jordan and the PLO so that it can delay its withdrawal from the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Lebanon. He said that the current negotiations between His Majesty King Husayn and 'Arafat affirm the fusion of the Jordanian and Palestinian people in face of the Zionist conspiracies.

'Arafat's political adviser predicted a Zionist attack against the Syrian and Palestinian troops stationed in Al-Biqa' in the next 2 weeks. He affirmed the readiness of the Syrian and Palestinian troops to confront this attack.

Khalid al-Hasan called for reviving the eastern front so that it can repel the Israeli expansion. At the same time he called for ending to the Iran-Iraq war and said that it jeopardizes the interests of the two countries and that the PLO wishes to see the Iraqi Army standing alongside the Jordanian, Syrian, and Palestinian armies to face the Zionist enemy.

AL-MAJALLAH: USSR WOULD INTERVENE MILITARILY IF ASKED

PM061005 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 2-8 Apr 83 p 21

[Unattributed report: "Moscow Tells Some States in the Region: We Would Intervene Militarily if Requested by the Arabs To Do So"]

[Excerpt] Would the Soviet Union really intervene this time, militarily, not just with words, protest notes, and political pressure, in the event of Israeli aggression against Syria, thus preventing a repetition of the situation when Israel overran Lebanon and struck at the Palestinian resistance and the Syrian forces there? Would Syria, if necessary, seek Soviet military intervention even if it meant a serious military confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States in the region?

The Soviet Union has informed certain Arab circles that it is willing to provide any assistance, including military intervention in support of Syria or any other Arab state, against any aggression committed against these states if the Arabs request it. The Soviet Union has adopted this stance to refute the charge that it abandoned the Arabs and the Palestinians when the Israelis stormed Lebanon. Al-Majallah has received information to this effect from highly placed Arab sources.

The Soviets attribute their inaction not to weakness or disinterest but to the fact that neither Lebanon, nor Syria, nor the PLO asked for Soviet military intervention to stop the Israeli aggression. There were requests only for arms, and the result was that these arms were not used properly in the war and therefore appeared to be ineffective. Some weapons fell into Israeli hands.

The multinational force went to Lebanon after the Israeli invasion at the request of the Lebanese authorities. The Soviets maintain that neither Syria, despite its friendship and cooperation treaty with the Soviet Union, nor the PLO had a right to ask for Soviet troops because the Israeli war was raging on Lebanese territory and the Lebanese authorities were seeking the withdrawal of Syrian and Palestinian forces. The Soviets believe that only the Lebanese authorities had a right to seek military assistance and intervention to confront and stop the Israeli aggression, but they did not.

PNC SPEAKER ON EXPANSION OF PLO CENTRAL COUNCIL

JN060753 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Apr 83 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] PNC Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, in a statement prior to his departure from Amman yesterday, said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are good and that the dialogue between the two sides is continuing.

On the formation of the PLO Central Council, Al-Fahum said the council is expected to be expanded by 4 members, in addition to its current membership of 66 within 10 days and that the council will hold its first meeting in 2 months.

The council, in its present structure, consists of 4 members from the PNC, 14 members from the PLO Executive Committee, 20 members from the resistance factions, 6 members from Fatah, 2 members from each of the 7 other organizations, 5 members from the Palestinian trade unions, and the rest independent.

ARAB JUSTICE MINISTERS HOLD MEETING IN RIYADH

LD042200 Riyadh SPA in English 1915 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 4, SPA -- Arab justice ministers met here tonight to discuss the unification of judicial and legislative systems in the Arab world and to draft an agreement on judicial cooperation.

Earlier today the ministers held a procedural session and elected Saudi Justice Minister Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Al Ash-Shaykh as chairman of the conference. They also formed a committee made up of representatives from Saudi Arabie, Syria, Iraq, Qater and Tunisia to prepare agenda.

Addressing the session, North Yemani Justice Minister Muhsin al-Ulufi said a committee which had been assigned the task of drafting an agreement on Arab judicial cooperation had finished its task. Mr al-Ulufi called for the unification of legislative and judicial systems in the Arab world in line with the Islamic shari'a and described this as a "great and noble objective".

Addressing the session, the Saudi justice minister underlined the importance of ensuring justice in the Arab world in accordance with the Islamic shari's.

Mr ash-Shaykh called for Arab unity and said it was the only way to victory. "Moreover, the Zionist enemy has been able to carry out its plots against the Islamic and Arab nation due to Arab differences and dissension," he said.

He appealed to Arabs and Moslems to help the Palestinian people in their struggle to recover their legitimate rights.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM: PLO TO OPEN OFFICE IN OMAN

GF050805 Doha QNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (QNA) -- The Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM quoted reliable sources today as saying that contacts are in progress between PLO and Omani officials to open a PLO office in Oman in the next few days. The sources told the newspaper that this subject was discussed by Sa'ud Salim al-'Ansi, Oman's ambassador to Kuwait, and 'Awni Battash, the PLO office director in Kuwait, 2 days ago. The newspaper added that Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, has been invited to visit the Sultanate of Oman at any time.

AD-DUSTUR: CONTACTS TO EXTEND PLO RADIO TRANSMISSION

JN041000 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 4 Apr 83 p 20

[Text] Amman -- The daily transmission hours of Baghdad Voice of PLO have been changed to 1500-1600 GMT. Nabil 'Amr, the PLO radio director, is currently holding contacts with the competent Iraqi authorities to extend the transmission period by half an hour.

BRIEFS

ISLAMIC LOAN TO MAURITANIA -- An agreement was signed today whereby the Islamic Development Bank will grant an 8.04 million Islamic dinar loan, or about $8.6 million, to Mauritania to finance part of the cost of a highway between the cities of (Timbindra) and (An-Nima) in the southeastern province of Mauritania. [Text] [Riyadh Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Mar 83 GF]

LOAN TO YAR -- Kuwait, 2 Apr (WAKH) -- The Yar has received a loan of 2.1 million Kuwaiti dinars from the Arab Economic and Social Development Fund to finance the Ta'itz-Al-Mafraq highway reinforcement according to an agreement signed in Kuwait today. The loan term will be 18.5 years at an interest rate of 4 percent with a grace period of 3.5 years. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Apr 83 GF]

GULF AFFAIRS

REPORTAGE ON OIL SLICK MEETING IN BAHRAIN

Iran: Spill Reports 'Exaggerated'

GF060504 Manama GULF DAILY NEWS in English 6 Apr 83 p 1

[By Mike Holland]

[Text] Oil slicks were yesterday spotted by Bahrain's surveillance flights north of Muharraq. But they do not pose an immediate threat, according to a Ministry of the Interior official.

Meanwhile Iranian technical experts have claimed that there is only one well gushing oil in the stricken Nowruz field in their waters at the north end of the Gulf.

They told fellow technicians at the meeting of the regional Organisation for the Protection of Marine Environment [ROPME] in Bahrain that reports of the amounts of oil spilling into the Gulf were exaggerated.

According to them, only one well was blown sending between 2,000 and 3,000 barrels of oil a day into the sea, while two others were on fire.

However, they voiced concern over the fired wells which, they said, could fail at any moment owing to the intense heat of flames. If they collapse they could send as much as 20,000 barrels extra of oil into the Gulf, each day.

If the Iranian experts are correct, the maximum oil currently spilled into the Gulf would be at worst about 170,000 barrels and possibly a lot less, rather than the currently quoted 250,000 barrels.

These Iranian claims illustrate the problems facing spill experts trying to determine the size of both the spill and the resultant slick.

At present there is only a difficult-to-interpret satellite photograph for the experts to go on but following the Bahrain meeting on Monday -- a preamble to today's ministerial meeting of ROPME in Kuwait -- daily reports from the eight member countries, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq and Iran will be analysed centrally by the organisation.

Iranian Official Cited

LD051949 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1720 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA) -- A prominent Iranian official said here today that his country was prepared to commence work to shut down the Nowruz oil wells, from which oil is gushing into the waters of the Gulf, if it obtains the approval of the meeting of the ministerial council of the regional organization for the protection of the sea environment which will be held in Kuwait tomorrow.

The Iranian deputy prime minister and head of environmental protection [title as received] Reza Hoseyn Mirza Taheri told a press conference that following the approval of the regional organization Iran hopes to shut down the Nowruz wells within 20 days through the means available in the countries of the region and under our supervision.

He pointed out that the area of the oil slick caused by the oil flowing from the Nowruz field has reached 120 square miles and that some slicks have separated from this one and approached the shores of certain Gulf states. He added that the depth of the slick is 30 to 40 centimeters, and that about 2,000 barrels are flowing daily from the Nowruz field.

Taheri said that the polluted waters of the Gulf caused by the oil slick harm all states of the region, particularly those who have built desalination plants along the Gulf shores; add to this the danger of navigation in the region.

He said that Iran has so far spent $2 million fruitlessly out of its desire to protect the environment.

He expressed hope that the states of the region at their meeting tomorrow would adopt positive resolutions to halt the spread of the oil slick and to cleanse the gulf waters of any oil slick.

Iranian Delegation Departs

GF051506 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1435 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Manama, 5 Apr (WAKH) -- The Iranian delegation to the meeting of the experts for coordination on the appropriate means to combat the oil slick originating from the Nowruz oil field left Manama today.

The meeting, which concluded in Bahrain yesterday, submitted a number of recommendations to the meetings of the regional organizational council for sea environment protection which will be held in Kuwait tomorrow at the health ministers level.

Health Minister Comments

LD051337 Kuwait KUNA in English 1131 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 5 (KUNA) -- International houses of expertise had agreed to recap the Iranian damaged oilwells, causing the current oil slick in the Gulf waters, but had asked for assurances on the safety of the work team which can only be given following an Iraqi-Iranian accord, Health Minister Dr. 'Abd ar-Rahman al-'Awadi said in a statement to the National Assembly Tuesday.

Al-'Awadi who is the president of the Regional Organization for Marine Protection of the Environment (ROMPE) disclosed that the organization was actively busy creating the appropriate atmosphere conducive to guaranteeing the safety of the work teams sent by specialized companies to seal the damaged wells and thereby stop the oil flow.

Al-'Awadi indicated that Wednesday's ROMPE ministerial meeting here will "consider the situation and coordinate stands on the best and most effective measures to combat the oil spill in the Gulf waters." An earlier preparatory meeting of ROMPE experts was held yesterday in Manama to draw up recommendations and guiding plans for tomorrow's ministerial council.

Tracing back the slick disaster, the ROMPE president recalled that the first information was received by the organization last February 15 to the effect that an oilwell started, from February 9, to leak an average of 1500-2000 barrels of heavy crude oil into the Gulf waters daily as a result of a collison of an oil tanker two years before. He said that the damaged oilwell was part of the Iranian Nowruz offshore field between longitude 42 32' 20" north and latitude 7 25' 49" east at a depth of 80 feet below sea level.

Further damage, which could not be accurately fathomed in view of the military operations between Iraq and Iran, was reported to ROMPE on March 2 and 12. Oil leaking from the damaged wells increased as a result to reach an estimate of between 7 and 10 thousand barrels per day, according to Dr al-'Awadi.

At the beginning, ROMPE president said, the oil slick was driven by wind and movement of waves in a south easterly direction toward the coasts of the Gulf states, but as of (?March) 8 it took a different direction which has to be constantly followed in order to determine its changing position.

Al-'Awadi noted that Kuwait has taken all the necessary precautions including distribution of equipment for fighting any possible pollution in the ports of Ahmadi, Shuwaykh and Shu'aybah in addition to special arrangements to protect inlets of water and power stations and vital utilities in the country under an advance warning system on any approaching oil menace.

The minister of health and head of the national environment protection committee added that such authorities as the ports public administration, the coast-guard, Kuwait airforce and the fire brigade department had been alerted to the danger. Instructions were also wired to Kuwaiti and foreign vessels sailing through the Gulf waters to send in any reports or observations on the movement of the oil slick.

Al-'Awadi stated that following close observation and study of meteorological data and satellite charts, it was ascertained that the danger was still far away from Kuwait's territorial waters. He, however, cautioned against falling into the illusion that the menace will not possibly reach the country's coasts.

To be prepared for any contingency, the minister said that a plan has been drawn under which the oil will be pumped onshore, in case it reaches here, and to fight it on the high sea in addition to the erection of barricades around vital utilities for protection.

Dr al-'Awadi asserted in conclusion that Kuwait was maintaining contacts with all concerned authorities in the Gulf region to coordinate stands and work out collective measures to fight this disaster.

Meanwhile, a Saudi environment official announced today that the oil menace has completely receded from the coasts of the Arabian Gulf states after the winds had carried away the slick opposite to the Iranian coast.

Dr 'Abdallah al-Dabbagh, director of the research institute of Dharan oil college said that the oil slick now extends from the Strait of Hormuz north of the Ras al-Kahimah Emirate to the middle of Iran's coastal zone at a point parallel to the tip of the peninsula of Qatar.

He confirmed that there is no reason for anxiety and asserted that the danger has cleared off the Arabian Gulf coasts. On the sea animals recently found dead on Saudi coasts, the official indicated that studies made on these samples had established that they were not caused by pollution but rather because of respiratory failures caused possibly by poisoning. He attributed the symptom to dumped chemical materials, Iraqi-Iranian war operations or to the migration of schools of fish from polluted areas.

Dr al-Dabbagh stressed the necessity for collective action to stop the oil flow from damaged Iranian wells as first step toward fighting the slick which has so far been esitmated at 50,000 tons of crude. An Arab scientist advised in Doha that the best means to disperse the oil slick was by spraying special chemical materials which can decompose oil and cause it to evaporate with the remainder precipitates sinking to the seabed.

In a telephone interview published by AR-RAYAH paper today, the Egyptian space scientist, Dr Faruq al-Baz said that this spraying method will give effective results and assured that it will leave no environmental pollutive trace.

Pointing that two experts of the U.S. Environment Protection Agency were already on their way to Kuwait to take part in tomorrow's meeting of ROMPE ministerial council, the Egyptian scientist suggested the lining of fishing boats in long rows to act as first defence line and a barricade to block the movement of the oil slick toward the coasts of the Arabian Gulf states.

In Qatar itself, the director of the oil company assured that the situation on the Emirate's coast was completely reassuring and that there was no reason for concern regarding water, energy or oil supplies in the state.

In a television interview last night, the official stated that all precautions had been taken to protect Qatari coasts against any possible disaster.

Meanwhile, papers throughout the Gulf called today for taking this pollution event as a starting point for intensified Gulf efforts to reach a comprehensive settlement of the 31-month Iraq-Iran conflict.

The press said that the oil spill was one of the vestiges of this futile war and a demonstrative example of the urgency to halt it in the interest of both belligerents and countries of the region.

KUWAIT

CONTACT PLANNED WITH U.S., USSR ON GULF WAR

Seeking 'Peaceful Settlement'

GF050907 Doha QNA in Arabic 0730 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (QNA) -- The Kuwaiti newspapers AL-ANBA' and AL-WATAN reported that two Kuwaiti envoys will leave for Moscow and Washington to deliver letters from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, on supporting efforts for ending the Gulf war.

AL-WATAN said Kuwait will initiate a new attempt in the next few days to end the Iraqi-Iranian war and this attempt will take the form of international efforts aimed at activating the crisis in order to reach a solution to that conflict that has been going on for 3 years.

Quoting reliable sources, the newspaper added that the Kuwaiti endeavor seeks to achieve a form that ensures a peaceful settlement. The paper said that a Kuwaiti delegate is supposed to leave Kuwait within days carrying letters from the amir of Kuwait to Soviet leader Andropov and U.S. President Reagan and that the delegate was supposed to have left for Moscow yesterday but the date of departure was postponed pending the U.S. response.

Furthermore, the sources told the newspaper that the Kuwaiti move will include all other permanent UN Security Council members namely Britain, France, and China, besides Moscow and Washington. Kuwait's envoys to these countries will convey similar messages to the leaders of these countries.

AL-ANBA' said that Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rashid, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, will carry these letters to Moscow and Washington and that he is expected to leave today or tomorrow.

Quoting reliable sources, the newspaper added that Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad's letters to both countries' leaders and the talks Rashid ar-Rashid will hold in Moscow and Washington will deal with the bilateral relations, the Gulf war, and the necessity of ending it through the superpowers' support for peaceful efforts exerted in that regard, in addition to the Middle East crisis and the developments enveloping the Palestinian problem.

Finally, the newspaper said the Kuwait action in that regard is based upon a unified Gulf stand on all issues. The Kuwait amir's letters to officials in Moscow and Washington deal with and comes within the framework of top-level consultations already made for that purpose in order to activate the international stand on these issues.

Envoy Departs

LD051109 Kuwait KUNA in English 1018 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, April 5 (KUNA) -- Foreign undersecretary, Rashid ar-Rashid left here this afternoon for Moscow on the first leg of a visit which will also to take him to Washington.

In the course of his visits, the undersecretary will deliver messages to Soviet president [as received] Yuriy Andropov and President Ronald Reagan, as part of a new Kuwait effort to end the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Arrival in Moscow

LD060838 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0741 GMT 6 Apr 83

[By 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Khashshan]

[Text] Moscow, 6 Apr (KUNA) -- Kuwait today called on the Soviet Union to work toward finding a common effort by the permanent five members of the UN Security Council to settle the Gulf war between Iraq and Iran. This call was made by Rashid ar-Rashid, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry of Kuwait, in statements to KUNA.

The Kuwait official arrived here last night to hand a message from the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to the Soviet leader Yuriy Andropov, one of five messages that Kuwaiti envoys will carry to the leaders of the five big powers which include a call to work to solve the Iraqi-Iranian dispute.

Ar-Rashid stated that Kuwait and the Soviet Union share the same viewpoint on the need to put a halt to the war which has been going on since 1980 "and to establish peace between the two neighboring countries, Iraq and Iran, not only for the well-being of peace in the region but also for peace in the world."

He went on to add that "we hope, and we are also certain of the true intentions of the friendly Soviet Union, that [word indistinct] by its decisive role as a permanent member of the Security Council (?there will be) cooperation in the Security Council among all its permanent members to stop this war."

Ar-Rashid praised Kuwaiti-Soviet relations and stated that Kuwait hopes that the Soviet Union will also play its role in the sphere of "finding suitable and just solutions to the basic issues of the Middle East question and the Palestine problem."

Ar-Rashid stated that his talks with Soviet officials will also deal with "the Israeli aggressions and the Zionist enemy's occupation of Lebanon and the other Arab territories," in addition to bilateral relations between the two "friendly" states.

He pointed out that all these issues have prompted Kuwait to hold consultations "with all those whom we feel to be our friends including, naturally, the Soviet Union, and the other friends to reach a solution, the target of which is to establish peace in the region, which will also serve peace in the world."

Ar-Rashid today is to have a meeting with Georgiy Markovich Korniyenko, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, to hand him a message from Shaykh Jabir to the Soviet leader.

It has been mentioned that talks are to take place between Kuwaiti and Soviet officials about bilateral relations and international issues of mutual interest.

Ar-Rashid is to leave for Washington at the end of his visit to Moscow to hand a similar message to U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

HEIR APPARENT AFFIRMS ECONOMY'S SOUNDNESS

GF051436 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1305 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (WAKH) -- In a press interview published here today, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, affirmed the Kuwaiti economy's soundness. He said: Our economy is solid and strong and there is no need to worry about it. He said the reduction of oil prices and the current market crisis has not and will not affect the economy.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti newspaper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM, the Kuwaiti heir apparent said: The reserve of the coming generations has not been and will not be affected; it is our commitment toward the coming generations because it has been our habit to honor all our commitments.

Shaykh Sa'd said Kuwait will continue its constant stance toward its pan-Arab commitments. He said Kuwait is an Arab state that is committed to extend all possible help to other fraternal Arab countries.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM WARNS AGAINST REAGAN MIDEAST PLAN

LD051008 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0715 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA) -- The Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM today warns the Arab states against accepting the plan put forward by U.S. President Ronald Reagan, "for the sake of which the United States has embarked on an intensive campaign of pressure through some Arab capitals in order to encourage its acceptance." The paper adds that "Washington's aim in this intensive campaign is to create a final and decisive division of the Arab sides into so-called moderates and extremists."

The paper adds that the United States expects "the Arab 'extremists' to be isolated so that it will be possible to push conditions along the road chosen by the United States without the 'Arab extremists' finding any Arab support for them should Israel deal a preemptive military blow in the Al-Biqa' Valley."

The paper affirms that the United States believes that "the separation operation was essential under the current formula. This is because, like Israel, Washington believes that the foreseeable future provides a golden opportunity to deal a double blow -- one military and one political -- in the region before the new Soviet leader tries to achieve a personal triumph in the Arab-Israeli conflict, which is the most sensitive and most inflammable issue that exists."

The paper adds that "it is not that the plan itself that is a problem, but that it is an American solution and consequently it is a suspect solution. In order to sneak or secure the acceptance of any American solution, there must be a radical operation to beautify the ugly American face; otherwise such a solution will be no more than a temporary solution or a time-bomb."

BRIEFS

MAGAZINE PUBLICATION SUSPENDED -- Kuwait, 3 Apr (KUNA) -- The Ministry of Information yesterday ordered the suspension of (AT-TALI'A). The order was issued with the permission of Justice Muhammed Yusuf ar-Rifa'i, the president of the High Court of Appeals. The magazine is suspended because it published an article on Wednesday, 30 March -- its last issue -- on a debate Dr 'Abdallah an-Nafis held in the faculty of science at the University of Kuwait on the political obstacles in the way of development in the Arab homeland. [Excerpt] [Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1029 GMT 3 Apr 83 LD]

QATAR

COMMITTEE STUDIES OIL SPILL PROBLEM

GF060627 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2010 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Doha, 5 Apr (WAKH) -- Qatar's Permanent Environment Protection Committee continued its meetings this evening to discuss the latest developments of the oil slick leaking into the Gulf waters and to be assured of the measures taken to protect Qatar's coasts and waters from the pollution threat.

Dr Hasan Kashkash, acting secretary general of Qatar's Permanent Environment Protection Committee, has said the committee discussed in detail the reports of patches of light oil to Qatar's northeastern coasts. He said the committee sent two of its members to northern Qatar tonight to verify whether the oil slick has reached Al-Jammil, Ra's Laffan, Umm az-Zabilah, Ar-Rumays, and Al-Masirah areas. He added that some of these patches reached these coasts in form of solid oil masses, with some of them on the beaches and some in the water now. He also noted that due to bad weather conditions, no air surveys have been carried out yet and that the operation was limited to ground surveys only.

SAUDI ARABIA

COMMENTATOR DISCUSSES VALUE OF NEW ARAB SUMMIT

LD051518 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Samir Habib commentary]

[Text] Political observers have reaffirmed the importance of holding a new Arab summit conference to discuss the latest developments in the Arab arena, particularly since the Kingdom and a large number of Arab countries have supported the idea of holding such a

summit in view of the grave challenges facing the Arab nation, foremost of which is the growing Zionist challenge.

The Israeli enemy has been procrastinating in the negotiations over withdrawal from Lebanon. At the same time, it is confiscating Arab lands in the occupied West Bank to expand the colonization there. Moreover, it is also exercising new forms of terrorism and aggression against the Arab citiziens in the occupied territory, the latest of which was the mass poisoning. By these actions, Israel undoubtedly aims at forcing the Arabs of the occupied territory to flee and consequently help it to fulfill its dream of thwarting the plans for a just and durable comprehensive peace in the region.

As is known, Israel does not want a just comprehensive peace in the region. This is evident from its expansionist policy and its terrorist practices and provocation actions which are now so clear to the world as a whole after its new aggression on the sanctity of the holy places in occupied Palestine.

The holding of an Arab summit has become urgent, particularly in the present conditions when the Zionist challenge has intensified. Israel, through its designs in the region, hopes to frustrate plans for a just peace there. This necessitates an urgent and effective Arab move to face up to these designs and to discuss the developments that have occurred since the Fes summit conference which was held 7 months ago.

Perhaps the discussion by the forthcoming summit of the results of the efforts exerted by the Arab seven-member committee which toured the capitals of the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council will contribute to bolstering Arab moves for implementing the unified Arab plan unanimously adopted by the Fes summit and through which the Arabs defined the strategy for working for a comprehensive peace in this area which has suffered and continues to suffer from the Zionist aggression.

RADIO MONTE CARLO ON SAUDI POLITICAL STANCE

JN012017 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1807 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Telephone dispatch by correspondent in Riyadh 'Abdallah ash-Shihri carried within weekly program "It Happened Tomorrow" -- date not given, recorded]

[Text] Riyadh is still holding contacts with Washington, Beirut, Damascus, the PLO, and Amman. The contacts with Washington aim at having it put pressure on Israel to withdraw its forces from Lebanese territory. Last week, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia told the U.S. Administration through diplomatic channels that it will not tolerate seeing Lebanon subjugated to Israeli control and to the maneuvers of the Tel Aviv rulers. Saudi Arabia also told Washington that it will not accept a lessening of Lebanese sovereignty over all of Lebanon. Washington replied with positive promises which Riyadh considered hopeful for rescuing Lebanon. However, Riyadh once more called for translating these promises into tangible results or else Saudi-U.S. relations in particular, and Arab-U.S. relations in general, will take a course that will not please the U.S. Administration.

As observers and well-informed circles expect here, it seems that if Washington fails to fulfill its promises, Riyadh will most probably in the next few weeks prevent some foreign companies from carrying out development projects in the Kingdom. This will be the first of many steps.

Saudi contacts with Damascus and the PLO also continue. Both the Syrian and Palestinian sides committed themselves in Riyadh to a withdrawal from Lebanese territory synchronized with the Israeli forces' withdrawal. They have more than once reconfirmed their commitment to Saudi officials. The two sides responded positively to a Riyadh government request not to obstruct any measure or step the Lebanese Government may adopt in this regard and to avoid making any statements that may weaken the Lebanese side in the negotations. This shows that Riyadh has realized that all of the Arabs are requested not to [word indistinct] their efforts and men in the war of destiny and that they are also requested not to let bright cliches and false affiliations divide the Arab world and lead them toward side battles, in the process forgetting their main battle whose dangers were made clear in Beirut.

What Riyadh wants is to have the Arabs move according to a unanimous stand that may be identified by others as the Arab point of view. [passage indistinct]

Naturally, no one claims this, but it can be seen in the erroneous behavior and negative results which are being further entrenched. From this visualization of past events and present realities, the coming Arab summit conference will be devoted to the entire Arab nation and not to Palestine or Lebanon alone. The coming summit, if held, will be as Riyadh has demanded: a summit conference of confrontation, not for the sake of a border strip, but for the sake of the entire nation, which has never been threatened as it is now. The Riyadh government has notified the Arab states of this stand.

LEBANON IMPATIENT WITH U.S.-ISRAELI TALKS

LD032142 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 83

[News and comment prepared by Husayn al-Askari and presented by Ahmad Hariri]

[Text] Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said his government may be compelled to take into consideration other choices if the United States fails to achieve the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Lebanon.

Has the U.S. option exhausted its purposes in the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations? This is the question which arises in the Lebanese-U.S.-Israeli negotiations to secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon -- negotiations that have apparently reached an impasse because of the increase in the Israeli demands, which are unjustified and motivated by the desire to prolong the occupation of Lebanese territory.

When Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan says that his government may be compelled to take into consideration other choices if the United States fails to achieve the Israeli forces' withdrawal, despite the fact that the U.S. option has not yet been exhausted, this means there is bitterness as a result of the enemy's procrastination and the increase of its illogical demands. Lebanon's patience has been exhausted. Lebanon is no longer able to bear more Israeli procrastination.

The Lebanese feeling of unease is justifiable in view of the circumstances which Israel is trying to maintain -- circumstances which at any rate do not inspire good will toward the Israelis. On the contrary, they reveal the ill intentions of the enemy. Officials in the enemy government have revealed that the main Israeli aim has been not to reach a formula of an agreement for withdrawal from Lebanon in accordance with conditions which secure the enemy's border with Lebanon, as the Israelis claim, but to link the process of withdrawal with what the enemy hopes to announce by the annexation of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to the Zionist entity according to a prepared plan.

This is evident by the continuous expansion of settlements in the occupied Arab territories in the West Bank and Gaza, something which constitutes an obstacle toward finding some sort of confidence in the efforts being made from outside the Arab world to find a formula which can be the basis for a just and permanent solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict.

REAGAN DECISION SUSPENDING F-16'S PRAISED

Information Minister's Comment

LD012031 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] His excellency the minister of information, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani, has described the decision by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to suspend deliveries of 75 American F-16 bombers to Israel so long as the latter continues its occupation of Lebanon as undoubtedly a positive and effective step that will contribute to inducing Israel to withdraw from Lebanon after a protracted and unjustified occupation. In a comment on this decision, his excellency said: We hope for further positive steps that will restore security and stability to the entire region and contribute to giving the Palestinians their legitimate rights and to the return of the Arab lands to their original status.

His excellency stressed that the measure by the American President undoubtedly calls for optimism.

AL-JAZIRAH 2 April

GF020636 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] On the announcement made by U.S. President Reagan yesterday before the world affairs council that he had made up his mind not to deliver 75 F-16 fighters until it has withdrawn its forces from Lebanon, the Saudi paper AL-JAZIRAH commented editorially. Under the headline "The President's Decision," the paper noted: We, as an Arab voice, can only laud this decision which President Reagan adopted since it indicates U.S. determination to reach a just solution to the Lebanon issue, which is stigmatized by Israel's military occupation and its refusal to withdraw from its territories without imposing conditions which the Lebanese find hard to implement.

We reiterate our praise of this decision -- since it also constitutes effective pressure on Israel -- which may have profound influence in urging the political and military leadership in Israel to abandon the adoption of further armed aggression against Lebanon or other Arab countries. Moreover, this decision constitutes a strong shock to Israeli arrogance and causes the Israelis to realize how small indeed they are should they one day lose the huge U.S. support they receive in money, weapons, and equipment.

Riyadh Radio Analysis

LD021754 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Analysis by Jasir 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasir]

[Text] U.S. President Ronald Reagan has intensified his pressure on the Zionist entity to compel it to withdraw its forces from Lebanon.

Having lost patience with the lack of progress at the tripartite talks and the harmful effect this is having on U.S. efforts for a peaceful settlement covering the entire Middle East, President Reagan declared in Los Angeles that he has decided not to deliver 75 F-16 fighter-bombers to Israel as long as it continues to occupy Lebanese territory.

This measure by the U.S. President is fully compatible with U.S. law on the export of American weapons, which provides that U.S. military equipment sold abroad should be used only for defense purposes.

This decision will alter nothing in the Middle East military balance because the aircraft were not scheduled to be delivered until 1985. Yet, it is tantamount to an American gesture reflecting the extent of displeasure the American Administration feels toward Israel because of its obstruction of the negotiations in Lebanon and its frustration of the efforts for a lasting, just peace in the Middle East. The decision also proves that the United States has come to realize, though somewhat belatedly, that its political efforts and diplomatic flexibility toward this Zionist entity have been to no avail.

The Zionist entity is run and governed by a mixture of people fraught with racist rancor and complexes who have begun to believe that they and their odd entity can even fight with the country that is responsible for all the things they have: the United States. Reagan's decision has come about in order to bring the ruling Zionist clique back to its senses and to force it to abandon its arrogance and obduracy, which is intolerable even to its own allies.

3 April AL-BILAD

LD031405 Riyadh SPA in English 1216 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 3, SPA -- The new firm American stand towards Israel is due to the Israeli intransigent position which led to a stalemate in the tripartite American-Lebanese-Israeli talks on the Zionists troop withdrawal from Lebanon, a Saudi newspaper said today.

Commenting on the U.S. President's decision to withhold the delivery of F-16 fighter planes to Israel due to its "stubborn" stand on the talks, the Jidda-based AL-BILAD described the step as "an American warning to any Israeli future future attempt to place Washington into an awkward position of get the U.S. out of the Middle East game."

The paper urged the Arab states to mobilise all their potentials to help create more American pressure on the Zionist entity and said if the Arabs succeeded in reaching this goal they would get fruitful outcome in favour of their just cause.

INTERIOR MINISTER COMMENTS ON PACT WITH PAKISTAN

LD051338 Riyadh SPA in English 1209 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Dhahran, April 5 -- (SPA) -- Pakistani Interior Minister Mahmud Haroon and an accompanying delegation left here today for Abha after a day's trip to the Kingdom's eastern region as part of his current visit to the country. He was seen off by high-ranking civilian and military officials. Meanwhile, the Jidda-published English-language newspaper ARAB NEWS today quoted Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif as saying the agreement signed with Pakistan "did not arise because of some security problems beween the two countries.

"It is a normal business and we regard it an excellent achievement between the two Islamic states," he said.

The agreement, which was signed by Prince Nayif and Mr Haroon, will run for three years, renewable automatically. It is the first agreement of its kind to be signed with a non-Arab country.

Prince Nayif was quoted as saying the accord regulated security relations between the two countries, exchange of information, extradition of criminals and follow-up of various developments in the security field that concern both states.

Another agreement was signed to cover training which will start this year after the technical committees sort out the fine details of the number of candidates and whether they are going to be trained in Pakistan or in the Kingdom.

The paper quoted Mr Haroon as saying the pact would "institutionalise the already existing and expanding cooperation through the formation of the joint ministerial committee which will meet annually."

FINANCE MINISTER DENIES PROJECTS CANCELED

GF051512 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 5 Apr (WAKH) -- Muhammad Aba al-Khayl, Saudi finance and national economy minister, has denied recent reports on the cancellation of a number of major projects in Saudi Arabia, including desalination and petrochemical projects, and described these reports as untrue and misleading. He said the issue is that the water desalination tender was canceled because of the exaggerated bids to execute the project.

In a statement in today's issue of the magazine AL-YAMAMAH, the Saudi minister said: What is being reported on the effect of the lowering of oil prices on the national economy and on major projects is exaggerated, (?impractical), and untrue. He added: As for continued economic growth, the Kingdom will enjoy a high growth rate of not less than 8 percent per annum for many years to come, God willing, despite the reduction in oil production and prices. In this respect, he said, projects which will probably be accepted in the future despite the reduced need for them are not the only means to achieve economic growth. It is possible for the agricultural and economic sectors to play the same role in next stage.

Aba al-Khayl stated that the Planning Ministry is currently laying out the general guidelines for the fourth development plan which will be done with regard to the world's economic developments and developments in the country as well.

He also said contractors in Saudi Arabia will not be affected and that no measures will be taken to deprive them of their material and government privileges. They will remain respected and esteemed for their role in developing the homeland.

TUNISIAN MINISTER DISCUSSES DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

LD031412 Riyadh SPA in English 1214 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Text] Riyadh, April 3 (SPA) -- Tunisian Economy Minister Abdelaziz Lasram today reviewed with Saudi Planning Minister Hisham Nazir developing bilateral relations and the prospects of cooperation in the field of planning.

Before the meeting, the Tunisian minister watched a documentary film on the Kingdom's development at the Saudi Planning Ministry. Later, Mr Lasram also met with Saudi Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl.

Following the meeting, Mr Aba al-Khayl said the talks covered cooperation in various fields particularly in joint ventures and the activities of the Saudi-Tunisian joint company. He added that an agreement had been reached to foster cooperation in the prospects of setting up joint projects.

Mr Lasram arrived in Riyadh yesterday for a visit to Saudi Arabia.

UAE

OIL SPILL THREAT DISCUSSED IN ABU DHABI

GF052000 Manana WAKH in Arabic 1940 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 5 Apr (WAKH) -- A meeting was held in Abu Dhabi today to complete the discussion of the pollution resulting from the Iranian oil slick in which UAE Health Ministry undersecretaries and some foreign experts who are currently visiting the UAE participated.

'Abd ar-Rahim Ja'far, UAE Health Ministry assistant under secretary for therapy, said that during the meeting the conferees continued discussion of the plan to protect the UAE and its installations from the possible pollution by the Iranian oil slick if winds drive it to the UAE coasts.

He explained that the quantity of the spilled oil does not constitute the threat some people talk about and this oil slick has been broken up into many patches, some of which reached Bahrain and Qatar as was indicated in yesterday's aerial flights over Bahrain's and Qatar's waters. The other (?patches) are still far from the UAE coasts. The winds have driven them relatively far from Qatar.

BRIEFS

CROP PRODUCTION -- Abu Dhabi, 3 Apr (WAKH) -- Hamad 'Abdallah Salman, under secretary at the UAE Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, has said that the ministry's funds and aid to farmers increased 267 percent in comparison to that of 5 years ago, resulting in crop production reaching 343,000 tons, with some crops registering surpluses of 30,000 tons. [Excerpt] [Manama WAKH in Arabic 1040 GMT 3 Apr 83 GF]

LAND RECLAIMED -- Ash-Shariqah, 1 Apr (WAKH) -- The reclaimed land in the central agricultural area of the UAE increased to 89,725 dunnums in 1982. This was stated by Engineer 'Abdallah 'Abd al-'Aziz, director of the area. He said land reclaimed and planted during 1982 reached 16,857 dunnums, constituting a 33.1 percent increase. [Manama WAKH in Arabic 0900 GMT 1 Apr 83 GF]

BANGLADESHI ENVOY -- His Highness Shaykh Hamadan ibn Muhammad, deputy prime minister, met yesterday with Mahbubul Haq, the Bangladeshi ambassador to the UAE, on the occasion of the end of his term. [Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Mar 83 p 2 GF]

YAR

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH THAILAND

GF051400 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The YAR has decided to establish diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Thailand. A statement issued in this regard today said that out of a desire to develop existing relations between the YAR and the Kingdom of Thailand, the governments of the two countries have decided to establish diplomatic relations betwenn them on ambassadorial level as of today.

PDRY

SOVIET DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT 5 APRIL

GF051934 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The Soviet party and government delegation -- which includes Brutents, deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, and Ryzhkov, deputy foreign minister -- left Aden today at the conclusion of the official visit to our country which lasted several days. During this visit the delegation held talks with a number of officials in the party and the state dealing with developing means of cooperation between the two friendly countries.

MUBARAK PAYS OFFICIAL VISITS TO DPRK, JAPAN

For Pyongyang coverage of Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to North Korea, on 4 April, as well as KYODO coverage of Mubarak's visit to Japan beginning 5 April, see the 6 April issue of the Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MUBARAK TO STOP OVER IN KHARTOUM TO BRIEF NUMAYRI

NC031639 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1413 GMT 3 Apr 83

[Text] Beijing, 3 Apr (MENA) -- MENA has learned that President Husni Mubarak is expected to stopover in Khartoum for several hours en route to Cairo following his current Asian tour to brief Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri on the results of this tour. President Mubarak, who will wind up his official visit to the PRC tomorrow, Monday, will visit the DPRK, Japan, Indonesia, and Pakistan.

GHALI TO DELIVER MESSAGES TO MITTERRAND, REAGAN

NC011527 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak will send two messages to U.S. President Reagan and French President Mitterrand. The messages will include Egypt's views on the developments in the recent situation in the Middle East and the importance of pushing the efforts to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali will visit France on Wednesday to convey President Mubarak's message to the French president and he will later visit Washington.

GHALI WELCOMES HALT OF F-16 DELIVERY TO ISRAEL

PM061231 Cairo MAY in Arabic 4 Apr 83 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Dr Ghali Tells MAY: Reagan's Decision To Stop F-16 Aircraft Delivery to Israel Is a Step Toward Halting Policy of Aggression in the Area"]

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali said that he considers President Ronald Reagan's decision to stop the delivery of a number of F-16 aircraft (75 aircraft) to Israel a significant step which we hope will be followed by other steps that will be even more effective. He said that it is inconceivable that Israel should continue its occupation of Lebanese land, an occupation which is contrary to all rules of international law and principles of the UN Charter, and yet obtain more arms that it will no doubt use in its aggressive plans in the Middle East. Dr Ghali added: While we appreciate this decision we hope that the United States, in view of its role and international responsibility, will take every measure in order to put an end to any aggressive policy being pursued by Israel in the area.

COMMUNIQUE NO 1,050 LISTS IRANIAN BATTLE LOSSES

JN051642 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Communique No 1,050 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 April]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the determination of men who believe in their sacred cause and who defend their chaste soil against the tyrant forces of aggression, our daring Armed Forces are continuing their war activities at the front. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. A force from our units raided enemy positions and troop assembly points in the area opposite our positions in the northern sector of the front. Our force clashed with the enemy, killing 14, wounding several others, and destroying 2 antiaircraft machineguns and 1 vehicle.

2. Formations from our daring fighter planes today attacked enemy positions and concentrations opposite our forward positions in the Maysan sector scoring direct, effective hits. Flames and columns of smoke were seen rising from enemy targets. All our planes returned triumphantly and safely after successfully accomplishing their mission.

3. Using various weapons, our forward units pounded an enemy concentration in front of our positions in the Maysan sector, killing three and destroying two vehicles, one hardware stockpile, two observation posts, and one big tower.

4. One vehicle and one infantry position were destroyed in the central sector of the front.

5. The suspect Iranian regime's artillery today intermittently shelled Basra and Mandali and their suburbs, and the town of Zurbatiyah damaging civilian installations.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 April 1983

BAGHDAD ATTACKS KHOMEYNI, OPPRESSION IN IRAN

GF050855 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, in his court of oppression, Khomeyni uses human heads instead of [word indistinct], blood instead of water, and human flesh instead of [word indistinct]. Oh, unfortunate Iran.

During the past 31 months it has become clear that the military forces of Khomeyni have suffered major losses and that they have failed to realize their intentions of political occupation. What does the criminal Khomeyni clique expect to achieve by prolonging the war? Since their dirty conspiracies and unnatural and unjust treachery and contemptuous actions against the Iranian fire have come out in the open and since their effort aimed at imposing their [word indistinct] and illiteracy on this fire has been exposed, what do the troublesome rulers in Iran continue to contemplate and what do they expect to achieve?

During this long period of time, the whole world has come to understand Khomeyni's detestable complexion. The people of the whole world have come to understand the fact that the Khomeyni regime is an aggressive administration.

The ultimate target of the Khomeyni regime is to cross the Iraqi border and occupy Iraqi soil. But will the treacherous and sinful Khomeyni regime, which yearns for achieving its fascistic objectives, be able to continue deceiving the peoples of Iran and those of the region, choking in the meantime in an impasse of losses?

At a time when the peoples of Iran and the freedom- and peace-loving masses in the world are seriously protesting Khomeyni's policy of blood, death, and terrorism, the Khomeyni regime's madness is growing in intensity. In fact, it is directing the wrath of its inauspiciousness on the poor but heroic Muslim peoples of Iran. It is not refraining from continuing its policy of oppression and torture within that country. The daily work schedule of these murderers consists of the effort they make to suppress the voice of the peoples of Iran, who struggle for their legal rights, and to place chains of servitude on them.

Iran has been converted into a sea of blood through the blooddripping knives of the executioners in Tehran and Qom. Even in the most remote corners of this enormous country, mosques and schools have been converted into palaces and unnecessary numbers of prisons and death chambers have been, and are being, set up. The existence of the heroic peoples of Iran, who are struggling against the horrifying and suffocating policy pursued by this blooddripping and sinful regime -- whose members have excelled in the art of (?preaching) -- is being confronted by this dark regime's cruelty and oppression. The intolerable weight of hunger, unemployment, death, disease, and vagabondism is being felt throughout Iran, which has been contaminated by the deadly poison of this oppressive administration. The number of those fleeing from Khomeyni's hell is increasing every day.

Meanwhile, the [words indistinct] in Jamaran, who have no fear of God, are endeavoring to realize the conspiracies hatched by the racist policy of the Persians in the Middle East in general and in the Arab countries in particular. In fact, they are strenuously endeavoring to realize the occupationist plans drawn up by international imperialism and the Zionist movement.

Yes, this is the sinful Khomeyni regime's true identity.

BAGHDAD CITES U.S.-IRAN COOPERATION, OUTLOOK

GF051042 Baghdad International Service in Azeri 1800 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Treacherous Elements in Damascus Who Have Allied Themselves With the Monster in Jamaran"]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, the mullah rulers in Tehran, who have concealed their non-Islamic identities behind the veil of Islam, have adopted calumny and lies, which the sacred order of Islam condemns, as their daily behavior. Irrespective of the claims made by these mullah rulers to the effect that they are the enemies of international imperialism and Zionism, they continue to broaden and strengthen their relations with the U.S. Administration and the occupationist Israeli regime. However, the secret agreements between Tehran and Washington are being exposed on a daily basis.

The mullahs in Iran and the United States are resorting to every kind of treachery and crime and are hatching dark and satanic plans with a view to further enhancing the relations between the White House and Jamaran -- a move contrary to the antiexploitation movement of the peoples of Iran. These antihuman relations -- which smell of blood, gunpowder, and plunder -- are now more enhanced than those that existed during the era of the shah of Iran. The heroic spearheads of this trend of treachery and perversion are the imposters in Tehran.

Otherwise, the gates of the [word indistinct] courts would not have been opened to the courageous foreign monsters -- of course, had it not been for the treason of the treacherous elements in Damascus. [sentence as heard] Nevertheless, what has been done is over and now the situation is [words indistinct]. Commercial, economic, and particularly military cooperation between the two sides is developing on a daily basis. This state of affairs has proved that the claims made by the rulers in Tehran regarding the (?threat) by the arch-Satan are merely empty words.

It is now well-known that had it not been for the aid of U.S. imperialism, the rulers in Tel Aviv and treacherous Hafiz al-Asad -- who is of Arab origin -- and insane Al-Qadhdhafi have been extending to the chauvinist Persian rulers in their tragic war against Iraq, the aggressive rulers in Tehran and Qom would have perished in a short time. The poor peoples of Iran would have been rid of oppression, Iraq would have been rid of the imposed war, and the region would have been rid of insecurity and conspiracies.

However, this has not been the case. The treachery of the [word indistinct] dogs, on the one hand, and the attack of hungry monsters, on the other, have wounded the dove of peace. Now, Zionism in Israel, which with the blessing of the United States has been extending not only military aid to the cruel elements in Jamaran but also economic assistance, has been turned into a center of conspiracies used by the mullahs -- a center which has surpassed Damascus in terms of infamy in this respect.

The officials of the Khomeyni regime, in their statements and preachings, do not fail to refer to the development of relations between Iran and the United States. In fact, they define this as a pleasant incident. Meanwhile, the supporters of Khomeyni are acquiring U.S. arms from Israel with a view to strengthening relations between the White House and Jamaran. A day will come when, directly or indirectly, the non-Islamic impostors in Iran, under Khomeyni's leadership, will turn out as the closest friend and gendarme of U.S. imperialism, which they have described as the arch-Satan. They will meet and welcome their plunderous friend on the waters of the Gulf. This is a true fact.

SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES AMMAN 6 APRIL

JN061139 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Amman, 6 Apr (INA) -- Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal today ended a short visit to Jordan and left for home. The Saudi minister forwarded a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz to Jordanian King Husayn dealing with the developments in the Palestinian question, the current Arab situation, and bilateral relations. It is worth noting that this is the Saudi foreign minister's third visit to Jordan in a week.

HUSAYN VISITS PRIME MINISTER BADRAN 5 APRIL

JN051217 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn at noon today visited the prime minister's office, where he met for some time with Prime Minister Mudar Badran. The meeting was attended by chief of the Royal Court Ahmad al-Lawzi.

JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN COORDINATION, MEETINGS VIEWED

AD-DUSTUR Report

JN051032 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Joint Move Within the Pan-Arab Framework," the newspaper AD-DUSTUR says: Jordan has not missed any opportunity to stress the importance of a unified Arab move because the catastrophes that have successively befallen this nation were created by the absence of joint coordination, by confrontation, and by an awareness not only of the seriousness of the designs against this nation, but also the seriousness of continually ignoring the realities and changes in the Arab and international arenas.

When Jordan repeatedly stresses the special relations between Jordan and the Palestinians, it is within the Arab framework, which should be the base for promoting these special relations. Despite their clarity, the real concept and the pan-Arab dimension of our repeated assertions have slipped from some people's memories. Jordan and the PLO insist on assuming joint responsibility for a political move to rescue the land and the kinfolk, not on a unilateral basis, but from a readiness to assume this responsibility courageously, honestly, and clearly.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The day before yesterday, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, affirmed that the future of the Palestinian people depends on the Arab decision. This reminds us of a fact that has been repeatedly stressed by the PLO: that its right to be the sole legitimate representative is not a one-sided responsibility, but a responsibility that forms part of the pan-Arab move. The contacts Amman has witnessed during the last few days reflect this Jordanian-Palestinian concern.

Any Jordanian-Palestinian joint coordination and move do not represent, as some people believe, the end of the road or the final objective. Pan-Arab responsibility makes it incumbent upon the Arabs to support this agreement with all possible means.

Without this, the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will not have the required pan-Arab weight to make their move to rescue the land and kinfolk feasible. The forthcoming Arab summit should present, as it did in the Fes summit, a unified Arab view to close all loopholes in the joint Arab work and shoulder the world responsibility for justice, right, and peace.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: The road to peace is long and bumpy, but a unified and careful Arab move could prompt the party concerned, specifically the United States, to assume its responsibilities and assert its intentions and credibility by deeds. If such a move results in the freezing of settlements as a first step for protecting the Arabism of the land, the march will begin -- a march for which many generations will assume responsibility. Loyalty makes it incumbent upon our generation to secure this land that is threatened by Judaization, for future generations.

SAWT AS-SHA'B Comments

JN051101 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Real Summit and Possibilities of a Decision," the newspaper SAWT ASH-SHA'B says: Regardless of the many expectations that preceded and accompanied the meeting of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders in Amman, the fixed dimension in these talks is discussion of the fate of the occupied Palestinian land and the fate of the steadfast Palestinians there. The current phase is one of rescuing the cause now that the occupation has succeeded in implementing a scientific policy of obliterating the traces of the Palestine question and creating a new situation in which it is useless to talk about any political solution to the cause or to discuss the restoration of the occupied land and establishing a Palestinian entity on it.

This makes the meeting of the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders extremely responsible and important in terms of possible results for the future of the cause. The results emerging from the Amman meetings assume the burden of historic responsibility for rescuing the land and homeland and for working out a sound conceptualization of the next steps toward an acceptable solution to the cause.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B adds: This summit in Amman is the real summit, from which a decision could have the Arab and international weight to help push forward the wheel of peace and rescue. Without a joint Palestinian-Jordanian decision, what can any Arab summit do? Talk about a forthcoming Arab summit will be meaningless without a joint Palestinian-Jordanian decision on the objectives and means of moving in the present phase. The Arabs and Jordan will accept what the PLO accepts and will abide by the Palestinian decision; they admit that the primary and historic responsibility is a Palestinian responsibility, supported by the Arabs' efforts and stands.

SAWT ASH-SHA'B concludes: From here, Arab decision begins, and this decision should be clear in its dimensions and accurate in responding to the nature of the present stage and its dangers. Whatever the decision may be, it will have many important ramifications that we hope will serve the cause.

USSR FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION VISITS OFFICIALS

Senate President Receives Group

JN051718 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Senate President Ahmad at-Tarawinah received this morning a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries under Ivanov, union presidium first deputy chairman, on the occasion of the Jordanian-USSR Friendship Society's 15th anniversary.

At-Tarawinah explained to the head and members of the delegation the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's firm stand on the various challenges. He also explained Jordan's endeavors, under His Majesty King Husayn, to achieve a just, honorable, and lasting peace based on the Fes summit resolutions. He said that Jordan is working to regain the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and to safeguard the Palestinian people's rights in their homeland, Palestine. He added that Jordan is exerting efforts to achieve stability and peace in this region and in all other regions in the world and that Jordan highly evaluates the USSR's stand on Arab causes.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed bilateral relations.

The head of the USSR delegation thanked the Senate president, praised His Majesty King Husayn's stands and his wise way of tackling of the problems in the region, and expressed appreciation of the USSR people and officials for his majesty and the Jordanian people. He said that relations between the two countries are developing in all spheres.

Meeting With NCC Speaker

JN051730 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] National Consultative Council [NCC] Speaker Sulayman 'Arar has spoken highly of the good Jordanian-Soviet relations and praised the USSR's stands on the just Arab causes. Speaking today upon receiving the chairman and members of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society delegation now visiting the country, 'Arar said that the Middle East is at a critical stage because the people of this region are facing the most dangerous Zionist onslaught.

He asserted that due to the continued Israeli aggression and repeated threats to the Arab countries and peoples, the entire region is experiencing increasing apprehension. We believe that supplying Israel with all the means of military and material might stand behind its intransigence and continued threats, 'Arar said. He emphasized that the invasion of an Arab country, the occupation of its capital city, and the attempt to subjugate its people cannot be received with satisfaction in the region. If Israel doesn't face a deterrent force, 'Arar said, its aggressive and expansionist ambitions will not cease.

'Arar indicated that the achievement of a just peace in the region will reflect positively on the whole world and, equally appropriate, the absence of peace in the region will lead it to a volatile end which will endanger the world's peace. Jordan, under King Husayn's leadership, 'Arar said, highly evaluates the USSR's support for the just pan-Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue. He added that Jordan's stand calls for the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace and rejects any peace built on the policies of force, intransigence, and faits accomplis.

We welcome the just peace so we can build up our economy and the people of the region may enjoy tranquility, 'Arar said.

Replying, the chairman of the Soviet delegation praised bilateral relations and reiterated the USSR's firm support for the just Arab causes and the Arab people's struggle to liberate their occupied territories.

Present at the meeting were Yahya ad-Drubi, secretary general of the National Assembly, and several NCC members.

MAJOR SA'D HADDAD CASTIGATES UNIFIL FORCES

NC041620 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 0945 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Easter address by "free Lebanon" leader Major Sa'd Haddad on 2 April, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] My dear friends: Good day to you, that is, the holiday for the two peoples -- the Christian people and the Jewish people. For that, I would like to address my congratulations to the Jewish people for the Passover, Pesach, to say "hag semeyah." Also for the Christians, I wish for them happy feast knowing that Christianity has its roots in the Jewish religion and is coming from the Jewish religion. And we believe that Christianity is the continuation of the Jewish religion. And each Christian should remember his origin and should know the Jewish religion because also of his own religion.

So my congratulations to both nations -- Jewish and the Christian nations, hoping that the holiness of the feast will bring love to the ground, to the earth, and will supplement the love in the hearts of people and this love will bring the feast. Knowing that, we believe, all of us, all human beings on the ground, that we are by coming from one father and mother, Adam and Eve.

Again, I would like to say to you, UNIFIL, that we can't bear any more the least behavior [words indistinct] against our people. They claim that they are developed and civilized people. If you are so, why don't you ask why you are in Lebanon? What are you doing in Lebanon? What is your mission in Lebanon? Do you have any answer? I guess not, because you are doing only strategy, obstacles in our faces, trying only to war against the troops of free Lebanon and [at] the same time bothering the civilian people.

Did you succeed in your mission? Ask youself. Did you succeed to keep your area clean from the terrorists? No, you didn't. If you did, Israel wouldn't be forced to make its operation. That is the most simple proof that you did fail in your mission. And you know very well most of your troops, some of them by fear, used to allow the terrorists to pass or to make bases inside your area. Some of them they used to touch money from the terrorists in purpose to give them facility of action. And now, what are you doing? Are you helping Lebanon? Really, are you helping Lebanon or making only our life difficult? Who are we? Don't you know that we are Lebanese? We are people born in the south. We are people who want to stay in the south. That is our legitimate right to live in our houses, in our villages.

What is the meaning of your checkpoints? Against whom? Only against us? Can you stop the IDF? No. You are only stopping us because we don't, we are avoiding always to make any trouble with you. When you saw this, you thought that we are weak. Don't you know that the civilian people are getting tired from your presence?

In many villages you have taken their houses, occupying their houses by force. They want, many people, they want to come back to their houses. You are not giving them their houses.

You are behaving like a real occupying force. And, you know, many attempts and ties against the honor of our women. We [1-minute break in transmission] that the Fijians opened fire deliberately and killed one from Jwayya and injured many others from the back. When you did let them pass under your checkpoint, after all, you did open fire on them. And lately, lately, you did kill a human person, a person who did sacrifice his life for humanitarian action -- a doctor -- in 'Ayn b'al. Why? Because there is a savage one.

He was not able to hold himself. He wanted to rape the doctor's woman before his eyes. What do you think? You can misuse the population in the south as you like, as we are slaves? We are not slaves.

If you did make benefit from quietness, because I used to make pressure, I personally used to make pressure against our population in purpose not to harm you, not to react against you. I used to hold them. But after that I saw that being good, being so good with you, doesn't have any sense. On the contrary, your main policy is to attack us, to spoil our institutions. For that I gave the people the freedom of action.

I am not going to intervene. I am not going to intervene with any civilian which might do something against you. You have to manage to protect yourselves from the civilians. And be sure all the civilians in all Lebanon are armed. They have weapons in all Lebanon, not only in the south. That is a Lebanese custom. You can't conquer it.

And you see that our moral protection for you was useful. But you were ungrateful, unfortunately. You didn't recognize that. On the contrary, you used to say always Major Haddad is a troublemaker. For that now all the roads are open from here to the capital. You can go and complain against any civilian who makes something against you. Now you can't ask me to make pressure against the civilian population because you don't recognize me. You don't recognize my status. For that I am not going to sacrifice anymore for you.

And for this, if you are so, as you claim, so civilized and extremely developed, you can ask your country to take you back. And instead of spending the money here in the south on you, they can -- if they really want, if your government wants really to help Lebanon -- they can send this money to help the people of the south, because you know very well that the south is neglected from the government. We didn't see any investment of money in the south. We didn't see big help coming to the people of the south. For that, the south needs help, really needs help, and you can help them by this. That is the only way to help the south.

I feel so sorry for you. But I feel (?even) more sorry for the killing and assassination of the doctor. This doctor used to stay with us in the difficult times. He was caring for your soldiers, your troops at the same time. You claim you are coming to make the peace in Lebanon, to protect the peace in Lebanon, and killing the civilians like this? It is not a way. It is not acceptable. Nobody can accept this. For that, I propose for you to contact your own country and review, and revise, your presence here. And maybe your government or your country will have some sense to take you back home.

I can't accept that your command, UNIFIL force commander, will judge the soldier. If you do not want to deliver this soldier -- and not only this soldier; all the members of the checkpoint to be judged, the one who attempted to rape the woman and the other one who did open the fire -- if you do not want to deliver them to us, you should deliver them to the Lebanese authority. They should obey to the Lebanese law, the Lebanese justice, not to give him a punishment of 1 month of prison, after which to send him back to his country.

Also you have to know that you should pay, UNIFIL should pay, at least $100,000 for the family of the doctor, because he is a doctor. The value of the doctor is much more than that, but even with that we do not want to be so hard. And I hope you will pay very soon.

Further, I would like to address our friends and allies, the Americans. I wonder when I did hear the news yesterday that President Reagan stopped delivering Israel the F-16 aircraft. What was the reason? The reason was that he considers that Israel is occupying the land of Lebanon and these weapons are defensive and should not be used for offensive purposes.

I can't understand this logic. First of all, you should know that the Israeli operation in Lebanon was requested by most of the Lebanese. The IDF operation in Lebanon was the only means to save or to put outside the terrorists and the Syrians and deliver and safeguard the population of the south. And it was the only operation which did allow our government to extend its authority and sovereignty to West Beirut, to the capital. Without it, there was no hope at all. Much more than that, without this operation, we did believe that Lebanon was going to disappear from the map. Lebanon would be completely a large terrorist base annexed to Syria.

And now these aircraft are not going to be used against Lebanon -- you know that very well -- and are not going to be used against Lebanon but are going to be used mainly to protect the American interests in the Middle East. And you know that very well.

Who is able to face the Russian aggression in the Middle East? Saudi Arabians? These bedouin Saudi Arabians? Or King Husayn? Or Kuwait? Maybe you care too much on Qabus. Qabus is a very courageous man. Sultan Qabus maybe can do the work for you.

I blame you because you are putting pressure against your own friends. You are bothering only your own plans and you are harming your own interest. Maybe you think that you are (?beheaded) to make out of Lebanon an American base inserted to face the Russians in the Middle East. I advise you to try to widen the space toward the north and Al-Biqa'. And believe me, you will not succeed to hold too much, for there are many fanatics in Lebanon, like Khomeyni and others.

Also, there is a large communist party in Lebanon. They will act against it. They did begin already and sure they will continue and they will increase their efforts against it.

You used to have bases in Libya. When this crazy Al-Qadhdhafi told you go out, you did go out. So I would like to see you in Lebanon having a strong base, but be sure it will not hold on forever because I know the mentality and behavior of our people. For that, a free advice for you: You have only one sure ally in the Middle East. You can count on it. That is Israel. Do whatever you want in purpose to help your ally not to make pressure against your own ally. Whatever will be the circumstances, Israel will stay loyal to you, will stay a real and effective guardian for your own interests in the Middle East.

I hope that you listen to my advice and you will pass this to Mr President Reagan and I hope that you will change your mind and to be realistic not to be taken by emotion. And be sure all the Arabic countries, you can't count on any of them because they can change attitude from hour to hour.

So thank you very much. I would like now to speak to our people a little bit in Arabic.

NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN LATEST NEGOTIATIONS

NC060732 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Excerpt] There were no new developments in yesterday's tripartite negotiations. The 26th round of negotiations, which was held in Khaldah yesterday and which was regarded as informal, was not significantly different than the previous 25 rounds. It did not record the desired progress. The discussions dealt with the security arrangements and some points within the framework of the clause on mutual relations.

The Lebanese delegation to the negotiations carried a working document that was the outcome of work by the subcommittees. The points contained in it were the result of the comprehensive draft agreement drawn up by U.S. presidential envoy Philip Habib. The document includes Lebanon's viewpoint on the draft agreement because there are points which Israel does not approve of. The points that are the subject of differences in viewpoints are thorny ones, such as the question over Sa'd Haddad and its ramifications at the security arrangements level, and the problems in the joint committees. It is known that Lebanon rejects the joint patrols, because in the military concept this includes practical matters affecting Lebanese sovereignty.

As reported today, there are indications that Israel wants an agreement and that the partial withdrawals, as reiterated in the media, have been dropped for three reasons: 1) Their absolute rejection by Lebanon. 2) The U.S. rejection. 3) They lack the Israeli public's approval. This indicates that the withdrawals will be comprehensive. There are signs that Israel wants the withdrawals and that what is taking place in the negotiations is a maneuver.

The reports add that through its moves and contacts with U.S. officials, Lebanon has succeeded in separating the Reagan plan from a solution in Lebanon. Lebanon believes that if Israel fails to obtain the price [for its withdrawal], it will resort to stalling the negotiations by adopting a negative attitude one day and a positive attitude on another day until the beginning of the summer when the U.S. Administration will enter the presidential election campaign.

The new procedure which Lebanon has adopted by intensifying the negotiations is aimed at speeding up a solution and avoiding a deadlock. If a deadlock is inevitable, let this be early and before the summer.

The tripartite negotiators who met in Khaldah yesterday did not release an official statement. The official spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, Dawud as-Sayigh, said that the session was informal. He said that the talks dealt with the security arrangements and mutual relations. He said that the next meeting will be held in Qiryat Shemona on Thursday.

Talks Analyzed

NC051832 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpt] The 26th round of the tripartite negotiations was held in Khaldah today. Our colleague Khalil Haddad, who is now with us in the studio, speaks about today's session.

[Question] Khalil, can we know the atmosphere which dominated today's talks in the light of the available information?

[Answer] Despite the puzzlement and confusion which confronted the correspondents and journalists today because no information had filtered out, it can be said that the negotiations were held in a serious and calm atmosphere, and in a diplomatic nature and accent that dealt with the topics under discussion seriously and profoundly.

Today's negotiations, which according to stated official information were considered an unofficial session to discuss security arrangements and mutual relations, were interspersed by a lengthy discussion of the draft general agreement. The text of the preamble to the five provisions of the agenda was approved. Discussions then moved to a review of the text of the provisions on ending the state of war, the withdrawals, the possible guarantees, the framework for mutual relations, and the security arrangements.

Brackets were put down on the draft agreement. According to the American method, the points of differences were encircled by a pen. These points of difference revolved around the provisions on the movement of goods and the framework for relations -- provisions which Lebanon still refuses to discuss until 6 months after comprehensive withdrawals. As for the liaison offices, they are no longer an abstacle after a common and acceptable formula was reached.

The negotiators tried today to loosen the knots and ease the difficulties after both differences and points of agreement were defined in the provision on security arrangements through an exchange of formulas and ideas between the Lebanese and Israeli sides. The U.S. delegation tried to narrow the gap and bring viewpoints closer.

[Question] Therefore, how can the Lebanese and Israeli stands be summed up?

[Answer] The Lebanese stand is as follows: Lebanon proposes the establishment of a 20-km-wide security and military zone to which will be allocated two reduced Lebanese Army brigades comprising not more than 3,000 soldiers, including the regular Lebanese Army forces that are working under the command of Major Haddad. This force will maintain security in the border area.

Lebanon accepts joint supervisory patrols, but no intervention patrols comprised of an agreed-upon number of personnel. Maj Sa'd Haddad's status will be reviewed later by the Lebanese legal authority.

As for the Israeli stand, it is summed up as follows: Israel adheres to a 45-km-wide security zone. It demands the deployment of three Lebanese Army brigades. Two brigades will be stationary, including the regional brigade which will include Maj Haddad's forces. The third brigade will be a reserve brigade. The three brigades will number 12,000 soldiers under Maj Haddad's command. Israel demands 10 joint patrols, each containing 300 Israeli soldiers with their military vehicles. It also demands the right to intervene in the event of incidents endangering the security of the northern border.

UNIFIL's role is still to be defined. This requires a UN Security Council resolution. Cooperation in combatting smuggling and crimes will be done through Interpol.

In any case, it cannot be said the countdown toward a possible agreement has begun. This must wait for the coming session, for the U.S. stand toward Israel's demands, and for price the United States will pay Israel in order to soften its stand toward the negotiations and bring about their success.

Committee Reviews Talks

NC051251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1143 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Report by Joe Sa'adah from Republican Palace]

[Text] The political committee of the higher liaison body today held a meeting under the chairmanship of Dr Wadi' Haddad on behalf of President Amin al-Jumayyil. The meeting was attended by the French and British ambassadors and representatives of the Italian and U.S. Embassies in addition to the Lebanese and international officers team.

At this meeting, Dr Haddad reviewed the situation in the negotiations and their phases, outlining the new procedure which is being adopted. This new procedure aims at intensifying the negotiations to speed up an agreement ensuring the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, safeguarding Lebanese sovereignty and on the other part guaranteeing Israel's security.

Dr Haddad denied the information media report last weekend that an agreement was reached over joint patrols, clarifying that discussions are taking place regarding a proposal for setting up committees to supervise the implementation of an agreement.

Dr Haddad's statement was preceded by a security review made by the chief of the main military operations room in the Republican Palace. This review dealt with the activity of the Lebanese Army in greater Beirut with the cooperation of the multinational force, the security situation in the north, and in the mountain as well as the recent events in the south.

The security review also dealt with the Israeli forces' activity in setting up roadblocks in areas that were banned under the agreement previously signed on the IDF withdrawal from Beirut, their cutting international highways, carrying out exercises with live ammunition, and the reactions to these actions.

RESISTANCE CLAIMS SIDON OPERATION AGAINST IDF

NC051424 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1330 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The Lebanese national resistance forces at noon today carried out a new operation against the occupation forces near Sidon, resulting in an unspecified number of casualties in the ranks of the enemy forces.

The details of the operation: When a Zionist military convoy was passing on Sayniq bridge between Sidon and Tyre, a [boobytrapped] car parked near Samir al-'Alali's fuel station was detonated by remote control. The explosion caused casualties in the ranks of the enemy forces and a large fire broke out at the site of the explosion. This was followed by intensive shooting.

The occupation forces cut the international highway, diverted traffic to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp road and surrounded the area. It has been learned that the enemy's invasion forces carried out a search operation in the area and arrested a number of persons.

The enemy's radio admitted the operation and claimed that there were no casualties in their ranks. In a later statement, the Lebanese National Resistance Front emphasized that a number of enemy vehicles and equipment was destroyed. The front pointed out that the group returned safely to base.

AL-BA'TH ON CURRENT MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS

JN051117 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 5 Apr 83

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial today, AL-BA'TH says: U.S. diplomacy is active these days in the region to move the proposed negotiations process between the Arabs and the Zionist enemy from its current stumbling situation into a tangible reality, through which the Camp David accords will be revived and developed, in accordance with the U.S.-Zionist perspective, into new treaties that would implicate other Arab sides with accords and commitments which give the two allies -- the United States and the Zionist entity -- the opportunity to devour and fully control the region.

Perhaps, the principal base on which the U.S. State Department activities are moving toward achieving this objective is the well-known initiative declared by U.S. President Reagan late last summer, immediately following the Palestinian departure from Beirut. It is no secret that some Arab sides, known for their strong ties with the United States, have shown frank readiness to ride the U.S. bandwagon on this basis and have nominated themselves to negotiate on behalf of the Arabs and Palestinians in particular to seize this rotten U.S. bait which was thrown by the United States into the Arab political lake.

The strange thing is that the Fes resolutions were a consensus with all Arab sides participating, including those sides that are preparing to ride the U.S. bandwagon toward a new Camp David and under the slogan: the positive elements in the Reagan plan. Has the Arab commitment to the Fes resolution become so cheap to these sides, compared with their commitment toward the U.S. diplomacy's proposals and visualizations on a settlement of the region's crisis? We said before and we are still saying that the Fes resolutions represent the minimum limit of the Arab consensus for a joint formula, through which the Arabs will look for their lost rights and affirm their wish for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East. What pretext do they have to lean toward Reagan's ideas, proposals, and processes which are exported to us along with the tons of heavy arms to our enemy? Have the Fes resolutions been shelved and have their alternatives become the wishes of the U.S. White House together with the telephone calls which are striking some Arab officials' ears, calling for peace through the known methods and intentions?

AL-BA'TH concludes: In any case, this suspect U.S. activity will not be everything in the region, and the approval of some Arab sides to the White House wishes will not be the important fact in the present Arab circumstances. The world is not confined to the United States and the Arabs' present state will not be defined by the fall of Arab sides here and there on the tables of capitualatory negotiations. We say this because we know that with the capabilities of our people, the adherence to our right, the assistance of our friends in the progressive and socialist world and foremost in the USSR, we will be able to block the road of all the measures and plots which the United States is designing against us and bring to account every Arab who bargains over the Arab cause.

AL-AHMAR RECEIVES LEBANESE PARTY DELEGATION

JN051424 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, this morning received a delegation of the Lebanese Social National Party led by In'am Ra'd.

Attending the meeting was Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the party's national command and head of the Foreign Relations Office.

The two sides discussed the current state of affairs in the Arab region in general and in Lebanon in particular. They also dealt with the means of mobilizing all the national and pan-Arab efforts to expel the aggressive Israelis from Lebanon and to preserve its unity and independence.

The two sides underlined the importance of the Lebanese national forces' role in the escalating resistance against the Israeli occupation and outlined the significance of the Syrian role in backing Lebanon, something that would certainly deter the Israeli aggressors and stop the U.S.-Zionist blackmailing and attempts to impose the Israeli conditions on Lebanon.

In'am Ra'd spoke highly of Syria's stand, on the level of its people, party, and president, and of its aid to Lebanon so the latter can preserve its independence and unity and expel the invaders from its territory. Ra'd said that Syria is the real and sole fortress of steadfastness in this stage in the face of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary designs and attempts to subjugate the region.

AL-HAWADITH CLAIMS SYRIA HAS NEW USSR WEAPONS

PM051305 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 1 Apr 83 pp 21, 22

[Report by Muhammad 'Abd al-Mawla: "The MIG-27 and SAM-11's have arrived in Syria. What Remains Is a Moscow Decision To Use Them"]

[Excerpt] The Soviet Union has supplied Syria with new types of strategic weapons not even supplied to Libya or any other state outside the Warsaw Pact states. In addition to the renowned SAM-5 missiles, Syria has received T-72 tanks, 122-mm self-propelled guns, 155-mm howitzer guns, BM-21 Katyusha rockets, and SAM-6 and Sam-9 antiaircraft missiles. Well-informed sources in Syria have confirmed that Syria now has SAM-11 missiles and MIG-27 aircraft supervised and flown by Soviet experts and pilots only. The movement, operation, and launching of these weapons are up to the Soviets who make the decisions in this respect. That is why Israel has recently saying that talk about these weapons is only meant to prevent war in the area.

CABINET SESSION EXPECTED TO DISCUSS U.S. POLICY

TA060625 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] On the political and security issues on the Cabinet agenda, ministers have expressed criticism in view of the several occurrences in Judaea and Samaria, Israel's relations with the United States and the continuation of the negotiations with Lebanon, and particularly on the way the ministers involved have been dealing with these issues. Our political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer is here in the studio with a report before the Cabinet session.

[Schiffer -- live] Let us just get through the Cabinet session and continue. It seems that this sentence could be heard from the confidants of the ministers dealing with the political issues before the meetings that have been held recently. The weekly meeting requires the prime minister, the ministers of foreign affairs and defense to confront their colleagues, particularly with the proposals that the latter put forward. This morning a report is expected on the latest occurrences in Israel's relations with the United States, including President Reagan's announcement on the further suspension of the F-16 planes, the U.S. refusal to cooperate in building the Lavi plane and the encouragement Washington is giving to King Husayn to continue with his contacts with Yasir 'Arafat.

Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will report: President Reagan's move was in contradiction of what he was told on his visit to the United States and the question that will be raised is, how to react. Last night one of the ministers told me: We can no longer be satisfied with a verbal reaction. The administration has bared its teeth, and in contradiction of his statements that he would not use the military aid as a means of pressure on Israel, he has done so.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi thinks that Israel should not be hasty but continue with the negotiations about the arrangements in Lebanon and the other business with the United States as though nothing had happened.

On the prime minister's position, one of his confidants told me: Menahem Begin is not interested in quarrelling with Ronald Reagan. He leaves that to others and everything that he had to say to the U.S. President has already been said by former Vice President Walter Mondale in an article in which he attacked the Reagan administration for neglecting Israel in view of the continuation of the Soviet Union's deepening involvement in the area.

Another issue at the Cabinet session is the negotiations in Lebanon. Yesterday, so the ministers will be told, there was additional progress in the talks held in Khaldah, the position of the majority of the ministers, as expressed by Minister Levi, is that we should aspire to reaching an arrangement that will satisfy our security needs and keep the Lebanese from being seen as traitors in the Arab world.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens may report on what is occurring in the territories and on the affair of the poisonings there. Before the session, several ministers expressed criticism of the fact that to date they have not been given a report on this issue. Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i wants to know whether the phenomena of breaches of the peace in Judaea and Samaria are demanded by reality. [as heard] Today's Cabinet session will, therefore, be interesting.

ARENS: AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED WITH LEBANON

TA051721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens is convinced that Israel will ultimately reach an agreement with Lebanon, and thinks that Israel mainly needs patience. Minister Arens was speaking at a meeting of the Knesset Likud faction. Our correspondent reports that faction chairman Sara Doron said at the meeting that the refusal to accept the war ribbon is an antipatriotic act and has connotations of disloyalty to the country.

Talks Continue in Khaldah

TA051103 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1050 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Another round of talks opened at the Khaldah Lebanon Beach Hotel between the delegations of Israel, Lebanon, and the United States. Today's talks are limited, involving only four representatives from each side: 2 civilians and 2 military staffers instead of the 6 to 12 representatives on each delegation has been the previous custom.

Lebanese radio has reported that this was done as part of the attempts to accelerate the negotiations, and also that a decision had been made to increase the number of weekly sessions from two to four. The head of the Lebanese delegation, however, told reporters in Khaldah that nothing has yet been finalized on increasing the number of weekly meetings.

'Progress' in Talks

TA060728 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Jerusalem says that there was progress again in yesterday's talks on the matter of the joint patrols in southern Lebanon and on the matter of the actual, formal achievement of normalization. The talks between Israel and Lebanon will be resumed in Qiryat Shemona tomorrow.

SOVIET UNION 'SIGNALS' TO ISRAEL ANALYZED

TA051231 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Apr 83 p 10

[Commentary by Yehuda Lahav: "Russia Is Signaling to Israel With a Carrot and a Stick"]

[Text] A few days after the Soviet Union had given Israel a warning the like of which had not been known in years for its gravity, Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko -- who, from last week, is also the first deputy prime minister of the Soviet Union -- came out with the most "pro-Israeli" declaration made in Moscow over the last few years. Is this an "exercise for two hands?" Is Moscow playing a game of "carrot and stick" with us, a game neither strange for it nor for the other superpowers in their international relations?

Undoubtedly, this too. The texting of Gromyko's words reinforces the impression that the Soviet Union now wants to be incorporated in the political process in the Middle East. In order to make itself fit for roles of compromising and mediation, it has to prove that its position is no longer one-sided.

Gromyko has, in fact, continued the Soviet line containing innovations which have marked the Soviet Union's policy for about a year. In the Brezhnev plan issued last September, Israel was specifically mentioned by name as a country with the right to an independent and secure existence, while previous Soviet publications had generally satisfied themselves with support for the right of "all the nations of the area" to exist. Sometimes, when they were pressed, Soviet representatives added "including the state of Israel."

Gromyko has now taken an additional step. Not only did he reiterate Soviet support for Israel's right to exist, he also specifically and emphatically noted that the Soviet Union was opposed to the "extremist plans" to destroy Israel, despite its general support for the Arabs' struggle. This is a hint that is quite unequivocal, that if the Soviet Union is incorporated in the political negotiations, it does not intend to stand unambiguously behind the Arab position and Israel may expect that the Soviet Union will also give it "something." By the way, in political and diplomatic spheres, this hinted "something" is not much less than what the West European countries are promising Israel and, in the final analysis, what the United States is also promising.

So much for the "carrot." And what about the "stick?" After the military blows taken by the Arabs who were equipped with Soviet weapons and after the several diplomatic downfalls that the Soviet Union has suffered -- downfalls that have weakened the Soviet Union's grasp on the area -- it has an urgent need to prove to the few allies left to it that it is possible and worthwhile relying on it to rehabilitate its credibility as an ally. Therefore it may be assumed almost with certainty that the Soviet leadership was happy to find treasure in various statements that have been made in Israel (such as the statement by the chief of staff designate that the IDF was taking into account in its planning the possibility of a military confrontation with Syria in the spring or summer) which provided it with a reason or excuse to declare that it was standing behind Syria "if it is attacked." This statement was intended to prove to its Arab supporters that even if the Soviet Union followed a more flexible policy in the Middle East, it did not intend to abandon and desert its applies.

The two statements, then, complement each other and fit in nicely with the Soviet Union's moves. However, this does not mean that the combination is inseparable and that they cannot exist as "independent entities" with an existence of their own. Since the eve of the 6-day war, when the Soviet Union took a one-sided, pro-Arab position in the Middle East conflict, it has wanted a field of action for itself only for the event of aiming for a military solution to the conflict; as against this, it has completely neutralized itself, with all the sides regarding the political moves as the main thing, because they have arrived at the conclusion that the conflict has no military solution. The Soviet moves over the past year and especially over the last few months prove that Moscow has come to the conclusion that there is no alternative to being incorporated into the political process and for this a revision of its one-sided position is essential. These moves -- hesitant and gradual, it is true -- were actually taken during the war in Lebanon, whose influence on the Soviet position on Israel could have been purely negative. This is proof that the new Soviet line is the fruit of Soviet considerations upon which external events have a purely marginal effect and from this it follows that this is a longer-range policy. Whoever has eyes to see and ears to hear must note this matter.

However, the statement of backing for Syria also has an independent existence of its own, and it was not only made in order to balance other statements. Statements of this type have a dynamic of their own and the Soviet Union could find itself in a position in which it would have to acutalize its promises, if it does not want its credibility to be irremediably damaged. Therefore anyone who dismisses the Soviet statement, regards it as pure propaganda or thinks that it will not be actualized in any event, whatever the circumstances, is making a mistake.

Andrey Gromyko appeared at a news conference at the end of last week, one the like of which has not been seen in the Soviet capital for many years. He spoke in a confident, authoritative tone of voice which proves that his rise to the post of first deputy prime minister was not only a formal step. He created the feeling that after a fairly long period Soviet foreign policy once more has a "boss" of its own. We should not forget that Gromyko was already foreign minister when Yuri Andropov was nothing more than the Soviet ambassador to Budapest. This feeling can add to the weight of the Soviet moves and statements made recently, and not only in the Middle East arena.

ARENS ISSUES ANNOUNCEMENT ON WEST BANK EVENTS

TA051443 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1440 GMT 5 Apr 83

["Defense Ministry spokesman's announcement" -- ITIM headline]

[Text] Jerusalem, 5 Apr (ITIM) -- "The security branches are trying to locate the elements involved in the events of the last few days in Judaea and Samaria," the defense minister says.

Mr Arens pointed out that the measures adopted by the security authorities came in reaction to the disturbances and in order to secure the well-being of the inhabitants.

The defense minister expressed his hope that the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria and their elected representatives would see to calming tempers while rejecting the attempts of irresponsible elements to disrupt the calm and normal life.

BUS STONED IN WEST BANK; NO CASUALTIES

TA060609 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Last night an Egged bus traveling to Kibbutz Maguel was stoned. Nobody was hurt but the bus was damaged. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar notes that the police arrested 16 suspects from the village of (Baqa' al-Gharbiyya).

EXPLOSION REPORTED IN SIDON; NO CASUALTIES

TA051114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] This morning an explosive charge went off in the center of Sidon and our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that it was apparently placed in order to damage an Israeli vehicle passing by. However, the vehicle was not damaged, nor were any of the people in it. Large IDF forces with the help of Haddad's personnel are combing the area to capture those who placed the charge.

EHRLICH COMMENTS ON SOVIETS, F-16'S, LEBANON

TA011650 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1605 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister Simha Ehrlich by MA'ARIV correspondent Avi Bettelheim and IDF radio political correspondent 'Oz Frankel, moderated by YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Shlomo Naqdimon, on the "Gentlemen, the Press" program]

[Excerpts] [Naqdimon] Sir, one question to you in your function as deputy prime minister: What is your reaction to the Soviet threats against Israel? Is there any substance to them, or is Moscow trying to signal that no peace will prevail in the area without it?

[Ehrlich] It is difficult to tell what the real meaning is, but I can support the latest remarks made by the prime minister that the basis for them is artificial and deliberate. There is no war, and I hope no war will break out in the future. We are not preparing for war. It is true that this is reminiscent of the period on the eve of the 6-day war, when the Soviet ambassador came to see the then prime minister, the late Levi Eshkol, woke him at 0400 at the Dan Hotel in Tel Aviv, and told him: There are Israeli military concentrations along the Syrian border. Eshkol told him: Let us go there and I will show you that there is no military concentration. But this is what Moscow ruled. Therefore, I believe that when they talk about threats of war, this is a sign that there will not be war. However, one must nevertheless remain alert.

[Frankel] Do you, Mr Ehrlich, believe these declarations are primarily aimed at Israel, or should they be viewed as constituting part of the interbloc game?

[Ehrlich] The Soviets draw no distinction between Israel and the United States. They regard us as allies, and this is very much the case. When they shoot, they hope to hit both targets -- the United States and Israel -- at the same time.

[Bettelheim] Mr Ehrlich, the U.S. President said yesterday that Israel will not receive the 75 F-16's it had ordered as long as its forces are in Lebanon in a state of conquest, as this was defined. How do you react to this declaration?

[Ehrlich] I share the surprise at the President's statement on conquest. The U.S. President knows just as well as we do that we did not go out to conquer, and that not only are we prepared today to return home, we were ready to do this yesterday, too.

[Bettelheim] Did the Reagan announcement surprise you or the entire Cabinet?

[Ehrlich] The word conquest is offensive [poga'at] and surprising [mafti'a].

[Bettelheim] But did the Cabinet expect an easing up in releasing the weapons we requested?

[Ehrlich] We never succumb to expectations. We make assessments that I believe are realistic. No one said they had any expectations regarding receipt of the aircraft. I am convinced we will. I heard today that the President made a definitive statement that once we vacate Lebanon -- about which desire there is no dispute, we want to get out, the problem is the conditions for this and I hope the time for the withdrawal comes near. [sentence as heard]

[Frankel] Mr Ehrlich, do you not feel that the Isreali gesture in the form of supplying the information received and collected as a result of the war is not being reciprocated by the Americans?

[Ehrlich] I would not say that this is a gesture, since this is the first time that there were public reverberations to the exchange of information as a result of the collection of information following a war. We have experienced many wars, to our deep regret, and there was never such an argument. In my opinion, we erred in that we withheld the information that should have been provided to the Americans automatically. So this is a novelty, but no one did this as a gesture in order to get something in return. I would say that we corrected the mistake by doing this.

[Bettelheim] I would like to ask a number of questions on the Peace for Galilee war. Mr Ehrlich, in retrospect, would you say that you accept and agree with all the moves in that war?

[Ehrlich] How could any man be at one with everything? Sometimes a person is not satisfied with his own acts and deeds, in retrospect. We are also men, and no doubt there must have been mistakes, too. I can say today that I was not among those who cheered with glee over the Peace for Galilee war. I expressed this in the Cabinet, but not exactly as it was published in the newspapers at the time.

Certainly we made mistakes here and there, but all in all we achieved the goal of having the northern border quiet, showing that the Israeli citizens are not everyman's property that can be thrown to the dogs, and demonstrating that the Galilee inhabitants can go out to work at will, children can go to school, and housewives can do their shopping. There are no Katyushas and the border is quiet and safe. That was the main objective. There were also private, personal goals to which I was not party from the start, and moreover warned against, but this is an entirely different matter.

[Bettelheim] Yet there is increased Soviet involvement as well as growing disputes in Israel. This question may be phrased differently: If I am not mistaken, you abstained in the vote on 5 June?

[Ehrlich] No, no.

[Bettelheim] In other words, this was not so?

[Ehrlich] What do you mean by abstained? On such a question you either say aye or you say nay.

[Bettelheim] And you supported the war?

[Ehrlich] No, I was not in favor of it.

[Bettelheim] You were not in favor of going to war?

[Ehrlich] No, certainly not. I voted against it.

[Bettelheim] Perhaps today you could explain to us and the listeners why exactly you opposed launching the war?

[Ehrlich] I think I cannot do so because I cannot explain things. I have already gone too far by saying what I just did, reporting on Cabinet debates. Second, it is too premature to tell all the reasons since on some I was wrong, and on some I was right. As for why I took this position, the matter did not arise between Thursday evening, when the attempt was made to assassinate our ambassador to London, and Saturday night, 5 June -- in other words between the 3d and 5th of June. These deliberations spread over a very long time and I held a fixed, well-founded position based on data, information, world view, and opinion and I voted for the reasons on which I was partly wrong, but partly also right.

[Bettelheim] In retrospect, in view of the past 8 months, do you believe you did the right thing in the way you voted on 5 June?

[Ehrlich] I was a prior opposed to that decision because of the intentions and tendencies of those who headed the campaign. If I were to decide or vote or express a view of cleaning a 30- or 40- or 45-km zone, I would vote today in favor of it. This is also one of the reasons why I did not vote so then, because I did not see the target of 45 km. But I am still not at liberty to talk about this today.

[Bettelheim] But do you, Mr Ehrlich, now support the suggestion raised by some of your colleagues favoring a unilateral Israeli withdrawal to the 45-km line, where it will remain until an arrangement is found that would truly guarantee peace for the Galilee?

[Ehrlich] I have not taken a position on this question, but it seems to me that I oppose it, because if it is intended to scare the Lebanese by telling them that we will withdraw from Lebanon, what will the Lebanese do? They are negotiating with us for a withdrawal from all of Lebanon, so there is nothing here that could terrify them. But if a unilateral act is at issue and one begins an argument over how far we should pull back, I oppose this. I object to unilateral gestures or acts. We are currently negotiating. I am convinced that it will be possible, with good will and effort, to conclude them. Therefore, I oppose unilateral acts because I believe they would result in our prolonged stay in Lebanon, prolonging it ad infinitum, and I object to this.

[Bettelheim] But there is also the consideration of the safety of our soliders who are being hit in the Ash-Shuf hills and in the Beirut area.

[Ehrlich] I must take all the available data into consideration. I think that if we undertake a one-sided move, we will not have solved the problem of the safety and well-being of our soldiers, to the extent that such a danger exists. Yet this danger is decreasing day by day.

[Frankel] You said the negotiations could progress within a period of 2 weeks, but the negotiations, we have heard, are deadlocked. How does one get out of this dead end?

[Ehrlich] I cannot now go into the details of the negotiations. I believe we can be close -- and I said this before -- to solving all the problems in 2 or 3 weeks with a show of good will on the part of the two other sides. We, for example -- and I know this from comparing our starting point to where we have gotten -- have shown all the good will we can toward concluding the negotiations positively. We have nothing to give up or concede here.

[Frankel] The Lebanese say the same, though.

[Ehrlich] What else would you expect them to say? I think, however, that they do have room to give in.

[Naqdimon] Perhaps another question that is related to this subject: When Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon was still in that post, the media reported that the Americans were in fact the element preventing or hampering progress in the negotiations. Today, during the tenure of the incumbent defense minister, Moshe Arens, the music is slightly different. Could you perhaps explain to us, or tell us, or disclose to us whether indeed the United States, or its representative, presented an obstacle toward advancing the negotiations?

[Ehrlich] I can only speak for myself. We have shared interests with the United States, identical needs; The United States also has interests that are not identical to ours, and at times even conflict with them -- and vice versa. It is also necessary to have an understanding of this conflict of interests, too. As friends we are expected to reach a common ground and compromise. There is no other choice. This harsh statement not only failed to contribute to an understanding, but on the contrary deepened the misunderstanding. I believe that Defense Minister Professor Arens is now employing what I believe is a wise policy that will lead to positive results.

[Bettelheim] I would like to go back to the negotiations we are conducting with Lebanon, which have been taking a long time. Mr Ehrlich, even if we ultimately sign some sort of agreement with Lebanon, what...

[Ehrlich interrupts] Either we sign an agreement, or we do not. What do you mean by some sort of agreement?

[Bettelheim] Okay, fine. I am saying: If we sign an agreement with Lebanon, what is the point of such an agreement if Syria opposes it? In other words, did we not err in selecting our partner to the negotiations, and should we not have from the start requested U.S. mediation in arranging negotiations with Syria, which is the strong element in Lebanon?

[Ehrlich] First of all, it is not enough for us to ask the United States to mediate between ourselves and Syria; even if the Americans are prepared to place their good services at the disposal of such negotiations this is still not enough -- it also depends on Syria. As everyone knows, Syria is under Soviet influence, which is why the Americans must also be helped by their friends from other Arab countries in order to influence the Syrians. Therefore, your question shows some distortion and ignorance of reality, because one must realize that the Syrians are not sitting in the Americans' pocket. Therefore, at present Lebanon is a sovereign country, with which we must conduct negotiations. We cannot negotiate with Syria with whom we are in a state of war; furthermore, the Syrians are not prepared to negotiate with us. I believe we took the right course. Incidentally, the Lebanese are also closer now -- not only from the first moment Al-Jumayyil was elected -- to having all foreign forces withdrawn from Lebanon. The Arab countries support the Lebanese Government's position. So we have no other partner to negotiations but the Lebanese Government as it is. We have been arguing that the Lebanese Army cannot be relied upon, since it is weak. This is a fact, but we have no other partner with whom to negotiate.

[Bettelheim] But if Syria should object to an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, will there be any point in having such an agreement? Could such an agreement be implemented?

[Ehrlich] Look, we are linking the agreement on the condition that all foreign forces be removed. If the Syrians do not withdraw their forces, the implication will be self-evident, as will the conclusions.

[Frankel] We heard last week from what are called political sources that only a private meeting between President Reagan and Prime Minister Begin could lead to the acceleration of the political process in the Middle East, particularly on the Lebanon issue. Do you share this view?

[Ehrlich] No, I do not.

[Naqdimon] Incidentally, if I may break in here, there came an announcement from the United States saying that there have been no reports on this.

[Ehrlich] That is correct. I can only say that no Israeli circle has sought or hinted at a summit meeting between the two leaders.

[Frankel] Would you recommend such a meeting?

[Ehrlich] There is a point in holding such a meeting, such a conversation, when there is a substantial chance for reaching an understanding. I would say that some points still remain to be finalized here and there and there is also need to bridge disputed points. I believe we have not reached such s situation which is why I believe this initiative was not volunteered by Israeli Government or political circles. I do not think the time is ripe for such a meeting unless there are other topics that need to be discussed and understandings reached.

[Bettelheim] Mr Ehrlich, would you perhaps be good enough to describe in a few sentences the ongoing fabric of relations between ourselves and the United States?

[Ehrlich] I do not know what you have in mind. The relations for a few weeks now have greatly improved, the ties are closer, the exchanges of information more frequent and better. There is a different atmosphere, a better one. Nothing is being done overnight, and one needs patience. Time is a factor that is conducive to improving the good relations we had in the past.

[Frankel] Do you believe there is a chance that the memorandum of understanding between us and the United States might be renewed?

[Ehrlich] I cannot say for certain, but I have heard that the U.S. secretary of state wants to review the material in order to resume it. If this is done, this will no doubt be good.

[Bettelheim] Another aspect of the Peace for Galilee war is our prisoners being held by the PLO and the Syrians. Could you, Mr Ehrlich, as you find yourself at liberty to disclose, tell us a bit about where the contacts between us, or through middlemen, now stand on the issue of the release of the prisoners?

[Ehrlich] What I am at liberty to disclose would not reveal any news. I would say that we have contacts; there are negotiations. The negotiations began through the Austrian chancellor, and there was even correspondence between us on this, through a special messenger at the time when the prime minister was in the United States and I was acting prime minister.

Then we got the reports that the men were alive. A special envoy of the Austrian chancellor left for Damascus and achieved some things. We also exchanged information with the Syrian authorities. Since then the matter remains as it is, and I hope the men will return home safely.

[Bettelheim] That is to say it is clear that both the prisoners in Syria as well as the eight prisoners held by the PLO are safe and sound?

[Ehrlich] To the best of our knowledge they are.

[Frankel] Still in the political realm, but on another aspect: King Husayn has for a long time now been assessing the possibility of joining the political negotiations. Do you think Israel has done enough to bring Husayn to the negotiating table?

[Ehrlich] First of all, the Israeli Government signed the Camp David agreement, which obligates it to incorporate Husayn in the negotiations. We have been prepared and waiting for these negotiations to begin for 5 years. We could not do any more than that, because what more could we have done? Second, if Husayn comes to the negotiations -- and I am saying if he comes with 'Arafat's consent -- I personally will be pessimistic regarding the outcome of these negotiations, because he will not be free to conduct negotiations. Rather, he will have to act in accordance with directives [in English] handed down by Yasir 'Arafat. I cannot believe that there is a chance of our reaching an agreement. But if Husayn comes of his own free will, as the king of Jordan, and conducts negotiations with us, there is no doubt in my mind that there are good chances for the negotiations to have positive results.

[Bettelheim] Does such a chance, that Husayn would come of his own free will, exist?

[Ehrlich] I cannot prophesy. This is up to Husayn, not me. I am saying that if he does in the spirit of the Camp David agreements, I believe there are good chances for positive results.

[Frankel] On the one hand we have been saying that we reject any precondition, but on the other hand we have repeatedly declared that the negotiations be conducted on the basis of the Camp David accords. So is this not a precondition presented by Israel?

[Ehrlich] First of all, the Camp David accords are not a unilateral agreement dictated by Israel. It is signed by two countries, Israel and Egypt -- the largest Arab country. That agreement was drawn up by three parties, with the consent of the President of the United States, the president of Egypt, and the prime minister of Israel, so that the Camp David agreements are not a precondition. That is a fact. Besides, what is a precondition? I can say that Jerusalem is not negotiable. Will we separate west Jerusalem from east Jerusalem? Would anyone ever conceive of such a thing? So would I present this as a precondition that this is not negotiable? Everything is open. Just as we are not presenting a precondition to Husayn about Jerusalem, saying that he has nothing to discuss with us about this -- and as a parenthetical remark I can say that you know just as well as I do that there is nothing to discuss regarding Jerusalem. We will not present this as a precondition, saying that this is not something that can be discussed. By the same token, Husayn cannot tell us, in regard to the settlements, that we should stop them for the time being.

[Frankel] But will we not demand that Husayn negotiate with us on the basis of Camp David or the autonomy plan?

[Ehrlich] We will not demand this. Any negotiations with Husayn will be founded on the Camp David accords.

[Frankel] Which at least for now are unacceptable to him?

[Ehrlich] That is his business. I hope he will finally understand that they should be accepted.

[Bettelheim] Let me for a moment retreat a bit and go back to the first part of the questions we presented to you. When you talked about the Peace for Galilee operation, you used the phrase of those heading the campaign. This was stated with some reservation, and if I was finely enough tuned to your tone, there were two at the helm: Sharon and Eytan. In this context I would like to ask you if you could possibly tell us today why, in fact, about a year ago when the question of extending Eytan's term was topical, you actually objected?

[Ehrlich] I expressed opposition at the Cabinet at a time when it decided to extend Eytan's term by 1 more year, but when my colleagues asked me after the session -- because I did not explain why during the session -- for my reasons, I told them that I did not look favorably on the two-man team of the defense minister and the chief of staff. I thought there was need to have a pair comprised of a plus and a minus; not two pluses. This was the reason. But now Raful is retiring, the then defense minister is no longer the defense minister, and at the time I expressed reservations about this problem at the Cabinet session. That is correct. The reason was that I did not look favorably on this march, and I had my fears.

[Frankel] Are you satisfied that today Ari'el Sharon is not defense minister?

[Ehrlich] I do not rejoice over one's fall, and I cannot say I am satisfied. I am pleased that Moshe Arens is now the defense minister.

[Bettelheim] I would now like to go to questions dealing with partisan affairs. When Menahem Begin retires, most probably the battle for the heritage will begin in the Herut Movement. My question is whether any Herut Movement candidate as Begin's heir-apparent is acceptable to you in the Liberal Party?

[Ehrlich] I can say that first of all the very question is hypothetical. I cannot envision the retirement of Menahem Begin in the foreseeable future, and I think that this entire war is one being waged in the apartment whose owner is absent. There is no heritage, there is no one to bequeath anything. I know Mr Begin, and I see him a number of times a week. We have worked together for years. He is in the best of health and is strong. There is no doubt in my mind that he will run in the next elections, whether they are advanced or whether they are held in 1985.

But still, you asked a question and I will respond that when we established Gahal [the Herut-Liberal bloc] there was no dispute that Mr Begin was the first among all of us. That was for clear and well-known reasons, because he was Menahem Begin. As for the others, I can provide another example. Our municipal agreement requires mutual agreement on the first candidates in every town. And what holds true for a mayor certainly holds true for the prime minister, except for Menahem Begin.

ARRESTS CARRIED OUT IN WEST BANK RE 'POISONING'

TA051213 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The security forces have begun to carry out arrests among people suspected of having incited Judaea and Samaria inhabitants and staging fake poisoning of hundreds of schoolgirls. The head of the civilian administration, Shlomo Ilia, told out military correspondent Shmu'el Tal that the investigation clearly indicates that the case in question is a well-organized case of fraud in which the organizers made good, cynical use of the international media.

Ilia Interviewed

TA051210 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Interview with head of the civilian administration Shlomo Ilia by military correspondent Shmu'el Tal on 5 April, place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Shlomo Ilia, is it clear beyond any doubt today that the poisoning affair was really carried out under the orchestration of hostile elements?

[Answer] The evidence we are collecting tends to indicate more and more that elements we know to be part of the subversive political establishment were behind the phenomena we have witnessed since 21 March. We are currently in the midst of an investigation in nearly all the [West Bank] districts involving people who were somehow or another involved with this affair, either by way of their presence in the hospitals, or by their having been hospitalized more than three or four times by fabricating certificates and getting readmitted to hospital even though they had been discharged. In most of the cases we are also aware of individuals who were examined in our hospitals, too. All the examples I have just mentioned are currently being investigated and studied; that is, they are being probed, and I believe at some later stage we will also be able to present more conclusive evidence and more substantial proof of the organization behind this phenomenon. Clearly there was a political intention behind all this, in order to tie this to Land Day, which in Judaea and Samaria did not carry as much weight as expected by those elements. So clearly there is an attempt here to bridge the gap between their expectations in the sense of their desire to stir up agitation in the area. I would also like to point out that the civilian administration is showing a reinforced presence here. In other words, we are attending the hospitals in a most frequent and intensive way, we are nearly a fixture there. This is intended to prevent all sorts of elements which we have found in the hospitals from lending a hand to this great act.

[Question] Physicians have come here from various countries which dispatched the doctors as representatives to investigate this matter that is called the poisoning. Do you have any idea what the initial, preliminary evidence they have collected -- although this data is not yet official -- is?

[Answer] Two elements have already arrived here: One is a doctor who is a representative of the International Red Cross [IRC] from Geneva, as well as a team from a medical center in Atlanta. To the best of my knowledge, the conclusion reached by both these bodies is that there is no evidence in the field of any phenomenon of poisoning of one nature or another.

There is more evidence of phenomena that could be diagnosed from the sphere of psychology and I believe the teams have backed and provided further proof of our supposition that what is involved is not a medical problem but a phenomenon stirred up by political motives.

[Question] What body could possibly be strong enough to intimidate the girls so much that they would remain in the hospital so long and stage symptoms like those we have seen in this sort of disease?

[Answer] There are many bodies whose activity in fact coincides and harmonizes. One is what we call the volunteer organizations, which are composed of students. They can be found primarily in the education centers -- the universities and the high schools. We have proof that at least in Samaria they were behind those organizations. Once the patients reach the hospital we are faced with a problem, and in private conversations with us the doctors admit the provocation behind this phenomenon. At the same time, for fear for themselves as a result of the pressure exerted by those around them, they are in no hurry to release the patients, nor do they avoid readmitting girls to the hospital who had already been discharged. This involves frequent busing of female patients who are being readmitted, when we know there is nothing substantial behind their complaints. As I have already mentioned, in regard to all of the various elements that are exerting pressure in the hospitals, as well as the volunteers, we are currently investigating central figures in these bodies, and I believe we will also reach some results as a consequence.

[Question] Perhaps there is a connection with the political progress we are witnessing in Jordan, where the PLO's Executive Committee has met in Amman possibly for the first time in its full complement? How has this affected the territories, how was it manifest there?

[Answer] The bodies active here in Judaea and Samaria possibly belong primarily to the group which we call the leftist group, namely the rejectionist organizations in the PLO establishment and the activists belonging to its communist faction. We believe these bodies wanted to transmit a message to 'Arafat, telling him that they have a say here in Judaea and Samaria. We know that their traditional position has always been against the PLO-Jordanian rapprochement, and so maybe this activity of theirs was intended as a signal to indicate that one must remember that here, in Judaea and Samaria, they have some say-so; not so the other establishment, the Fatah-backed establishment -- the other large establishment within the PLO institutions.

West Bank Hospital Director

TA051119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The director of the hospitals in Judaea and Samaria, Dr Shihadah Shihadah, has said that most of the patients hospitalized recently in the hospitals in Judaea and Samaria felt bad because of panic and fear. The other people hospitalized, about 20 percent, were afflicted with normal sicknesses, not because of imaginary poisoning. Dr Shihadah spoke with a correspondent from the Israeli broadcasting house, (Qadur Rif'at).

Progress in Investigation

TA060637 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] Over the last 2 days there has been progress in the investigation that the security forces are conducting to expose the elements that organized the phenomena of poisoning in Judaea and Samaria.

The police are holding six youths who are suspected of organizing the mass hospitalization of students from Janin. All the youths have been in prison in the past for hostile activity. Here is a report from our correspondent Me'ir Einstein about the progress of the investigation.

[Einstein -- live or recorded] The investigation that the security forces are conducting to uncover the elements that have pulled the strings of the theater of poisoning in Judaea and Samaria is complicated since the investigators are being forced to cope with the criminal and political elements who organized the show. The police investigation team is being helped by the civilian administration's adviser on Arab affairs to get the political background behind the phenomenon. Over the last 2 days there has been significant progress in the investigation, during which drivers, who were recruited to evacuate the girls to the hospitals even before the girls were afflicted, have been interrogated. About 20 youths who were in charge of creating the panic in the schools have also been interrogated. Six of the youths have been arrested by the security forces. They are suspected of incitement and organizing the mass hospitalization. Most of the youths have in the past been sentenced to prison for hostile activity. The investigators also have in their possession the evidence of a 17-year old girl who relates that she was hospitalized in accordance with orders that she was given. The investigators have also discovered that the girls hospitalized in Nabulus were visited by students from the An-Najah University and those visitors distributed to the female students PLO propaganda booklets of the sort that are banned from circulation in Judaea and Samaria. Each of the hospitalized girls also received a personal letter containing a nationalist poem. The letters are signed by the youth movement of the highschool students in Nabulus. Yesterday the security forces prevented yet another act in the show of poisoning which had been scheduled to occur in the village of Silat az-Zahr, south of Janin. The security forces arrested a local youth who intended to spread in the village substances giving off bad smells and so cause poisoning hysteria.

'POISONINGS' BELIEVED CONNECTED WITH AMMAN TALKS

TA050942 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Apr 83 p 3

[Report by Sha'ya Segal]

[Text] "This may be the greatest show ever presented on any stage. Many thousands of actors are taking part in the show and the stage covers thousands of square kilometers. If we do not bring down the curtain quickly on this show, it may cause us inconceivable damage."

This is what a senior security source told MA'ARIV yesterday about the "poisonings affair" which is spreading through Judaea and Samaria. The same security source emphasized that only an idiot, whether from Israel or abroad, would fail to see and understand that what has been occurring in the Samarian towns for the last 2 weeks is a show being directed by principal elements.

The same senior security element continued by saying: "In my opinion, we are making a mistake by bringing experts here from all over the world and from all organizations in order to prove that our hands are clean. After all, if we are trying to prove that we are innocent, why should they not feel that in fact we feel guilty?

"Is it not sufficient that our commissions have checked and found that there are no poisonings in Samaria? Is it not sufficient that all the circumstances and facts point to the fact that this is a great show?"

Another security element in Samaria said that there was not a shadow of a doubt that the whole "poisonings affair" had been engineered by the PLO. "To date that organization had been able to hold its shows on the stage it had in Lebanon. That stage was destroyed from under its feet and now they want to turn Judaea and Samaria into their new stage. After all, everything around the 'poisonings affair' is so deliberate, so orderly."

The head of the civilian administration in Judaea and Samaria, Shlomo Ilia, told MA'ARIV last night that the first evaluation was that this is a question of a provocation increasing from day to day.

"After a tour I made of the hospitals and after a close study of the situation in the field, having received explanations from the local doctors, the facts speak for themselves. The facts are that after hundreds had been hospitalized, even the doctors themselves have seen fit to say that only six of them need to remain in the hospital."

Mr Ilia added that the civilian administration staff and security forces were accumulating increasing proof that political elements in Judaea and Samaria were behind the "affair of the poisonings."

Sources from the civilian administration added to Ilia's remarks, saying that in their opinion there was a broad political link between the 'Arafat-Husayn talks and what was happening now in Samaria. The imaginary poisonings were a continuation of those talks. According to those sources, as far as can be seen, organized student bodies were behind almost all the events that have occurred in Samaria recently.

'POISONING' VICTIMS ORDERED TRANSFERRED

TA060720 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 6 Apr 83 pp 1, 2

[Report by Margery Greenfeld and David Richardson]

[Text] Israeli military authorities last night ordered the immediate transfer of three "poisoning" victims hospitalized in Hebron to hospitals within Israel, and also instructed the hospital staff either to transfer 40 of the remaining 76 hospitalized schoolgirls to Israeli hospitals by this morning, or to discharge them, medical sources in the West Bank said.

This step precedes today's scheduled visit to Hebron, of two experts from the Centre for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, whom the Health Ministry has asked to investigate the wave of alleged poisonings in the West Bank over the past two weeks.

Also scheduled for this morning is a meeting at civil administration headquarters at Bet El between two experts from the World Health Organization and West Bank medical officials, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Australian epidemiologist Dr Ian Carter and Italian toxicologist Dr Gastone Vettorrazi, who arrived here on Monday night from WHO headquarters in Geneva to conduct a separate investigation, will be meeting this morning with West Bank director of hospitals Dr Shihadah Shihadah, West Bank Public Health Services Director Dr (Husayn 'Ubayd) and Civil Administration Health Officer Dr Yitzhaq Faver.

The WHO team, collecting material for a report to the UN Security Council, spent yesterday visiting West Bank hospitals, while the American experts are scheduled to be out in the field today. Both teams are maintaining their distance from the press. Last night, no information was available on the progress of either investigation.

Hebron hospital doctors last night said that they had "no idea why those particular three cases had been singled out for immediate transfer" since there were other "more serious" cases. The three were sent last night to an undisclosed hospital in Israel.

Nor was any explanation offered last night for the instructions to transfer the 40 additional patients by this morning, the doctors said.

Meanwhile, REUTER reported from Geneva that the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] withheld comment yesterday on reports that one of its representatives had found no evidence of poisoning during his visit to the West Bank.

Health Ministry Director-General Prof Barukh Modan said on Monday that ICRC representative Dr Franz Altherr had determined the incident "a mass phenomenon with no organic basis."

But an ICRC spokesman in Geneva said that Altherr's mission was to ensure that hospitalized patients received adequate medical care and not to run an inquiry into the causes of the illness, according to REUTER.

Modan yesterday reiterated that no evidence of poisoning had been found in any tests in Israeli hospitals.

"We are on the edge of psychobiological warfare, if I may call it so," Modan told the POST. The "first level" of this, he explained, was "biological symptoms being misused for psychological purposes to create stress among the local population and to create hostile world opinion."

"On the second level, psychological pressure is being used to create biological symptoms," he said.

Meanwhile, the Alignment Knesset faction yesterday decided to set up its own medical panel to examine the allegations of mass poisoning.

Tat-Aluf [Brigadier General] Shlomo Ilia, head of the Judaea and Samaria administration, said yesterday that a large number of people were being held as incitors.

Over the past two days, it had become increasingly clear that the so-called illness was the work of political agitators "cynically exploiting the fears of local schoolgirls and the international press," Ilia said.

So far, security forces have been unable to point to any central figure or body as responsible for the alleged incitement. They say that the exploitation of the girl's fear was at a local and immediate level.

Bi'r Zayt University students began a hunger strike yesterday to protest against the "poisoning" which they alleged were aimed at the "annihiliation" of the Palestinian people.

Unrest was also reported from Ramallah where a number of Israeli cars were stoned and earlier in the morning three petrol bombs were hurled at the Jericho police station.

On Monday evening, another petrol bomb was thrown at soldiers patrolling the Al-Jalazun refugee camp. No injuries or damage were reported in any of these incidents.

The Al-Jalazun camp, under curfew until last Thursday, was again under curfew last night following the attack. Residents there have complained of a particularly touch attitude by the army which they claim, rounds up all male residents between 10 and 60 years of age, keeping them up until late at night.

Arab sources also report a clash between students and Jewish settlers at the Artas junction near Bi'r Zayt, during which the settlers fired in the air and detained five students.

There were also complaints that Qiryat Arba' settlers were stopped and stoned at a road-block in Halhul, got out of their cars and hurled stones back at their attackers, smashing the windows of a house and car. Police have confirmed this complaint, but say that they have detained no one.

At the (Al-Makassad) hospital in East Jerusalem, a 17 year-old Janin youth died after receving head injuries during a demonstration in the town ten days ago. (Muhammad an-Nasr) was first treated at the local hospital, but was transferred to Jerusalem after it became clear that he could not breathe without assistance and would probably not regain consciousness. Doctors said that he was struck on the back of the head by a blunt instrument and said that his family claimed a soldier has struck him with a bottle. Military sources said that the youth was injured on March 27 by rocks thrown at the school where he was a student, probably to force the pupils to come out and demonstrate.

CABINET 6 APR ECONOMIC DECISIONS REPORTED

TA061215 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet has decided to impose a 1 percent levy on the purchase of foreign currency by Israelis in order to collect money for a program of encouraging Israeli exports. With details on the Cabinet decision, reporter Harly Braidman:

The new levy will bring in 7.5 billion shekels or about $140 million to help exporters and reduce national insurance payments of employer-exporters. The move was under emergency regulations which can be enforced for 3 months. All purchase of foreign currency in cash or for deposits by Israelis are affected. Minister Moda'i was the only minister to vote against it. He said it meant the end of liberalization and to foreign currency rates [as heard]. The government did not discuss extension of the Peace for Galilee loan. The director-general of the treasury, 'Ezra Sadan, refused to say whether the loan would be extended. If it were, it would be breaking the government's commitment in the budget not to impose new taxes or to extend the existing levy. This is Harley Braidman at the Treasury.

Cabinet Secretary's Announcement

TA061226 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] With a further report on today's Cabinet meeting, over to David Essing at the prime minister's office: Well, as we've just heard, the main business of the Cabinet today was economics, but Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor has just said that a number of issues were also discussed.

[Begin Meridor recording] In the weekly meeting of the Cabinet today the foreign minister reported to the Cabinet on present political issues, among them issues concerning Israeli-American relations and the negotiations with Lebanon. The defense minister reviewed in the Cabinet the security situation in Judaea and Samaria. The director-general of the Ministry of Health, Prof Barukh Modan, reported to the Cabinet on the so-called poisoning affair, which is not poisoning, in several places in Judaea and Samaria and on the tests which were taken by Israeli experts and by the representative of the Red Cross and other tests that are being conducted now by a crew from the United States and by the World Health Organization. [end recording]

[Essing] As for the so-called poisoning affair, as Dan Meridor puts it, Meridor also said that Israeli tests had proved that there was no poisoning involved, that Israel was now waiting to see what other international experts who are now carrying out tests, two of them from the United States, what their findings would be. This is David Essing reporting from the prime minister's office.

IDF STEPS UP SECURITY MEASURES IN NEGEV

TA061041 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 83 p 2

[Buqi Na'e report]

[Excerpt] Since the mineplanting near Revivim last Saturday, security forces have increased security measures in the Negev. Drivers are being asked not go to off onto dirt paths for fear of mines.

The head of the Ramat Hanegev Regional Council, Moshe Haqlay, reported yesterday that since the mining IDF patrols have been checking the access roads to the fields in the area each morning.

BRIEFS

NEW MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE -- The Cabinet has decided to establish a ministerial committee for air links and tourism. The ministerial committee will recommend government policy on maintaining and developing air links and tourism with other countries. The establishment of the committee was initiated by Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir, who stated that his ministry would be a full partner in determining aviation policy serving tourism. The new committee members are: Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir; Economic Coordination Minister Ya'aqov Meridor; Tourism Minister Avraham Sharir; and Transport Minister Hayim Corfu, who will act as the committee's chairman. The ministerial committee will recommend air links and tourism policy to ensure Israeli's political and economic interests. [Text] [Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Apr 83 TA]

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID WELCOMES ZAMBIA'S KAUNDA ON ARRIVAL

LD052014 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Zambian President Kenneth David Kaunda arrived in Algiers at 1600 today on an official 4-day visit to our country at the invitation of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party. The Zambian president, accompanied by an important delegation, was welcomed at the airport by President Chadli Bendjedid while guns were fired to salute his arrival.

President Kaunda made a brief statement to the press in the VIP lounge expressing pleasure at being in Algeria. He explained that the aim of his visit is to exchange viewpoints on some very important issues. He added that President Chadli Bendjedid plays a basic role in several international issues. We have come to Algiers to seek his viewpoint and to benefit from his experience, he said.

In conclusion, President Kaunda thanked the Brother Chadli Bendjedid for the warm welcome accorded him and the accompanying delegation. The Algerian-Zambian political talks began this evening at the People's Palace in private between the two presidents Bendjedid and Kaunda.

BENDJEDID RECEIVES MOROCCAN MESSAGE ON SUMMIT

LD052027 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and secretary general of the party, has received Moroccan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta, who conveyed to him a message from King Hassan II of Morocco concerning the consultations which are currently taking place in connection with the convention of an Arab summit meeting.

MOROCCO

PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH SPAIN

PM050901 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Mar 83 p 17

[Interview with Prime Minister Maati Bouabid by Domingo del Pinto in Rabat on 26 March]

[Text] Question: Felipe Gonzalez' visit to Morocco, starting tomorrow, Monday, is the first by a Spanish prime minister for 5 years. The last one was by Adolfo Suarez in June 1978. How have Spanish-Moroccan relations evolved since then?

Answer: Relations between Spain and Morocco have always been special and have evolved toward fruitful and friendly cooperation. You are not unaware of the mutual esteem, the convergence of viewpoints, and the fellowship of spirit that binds our two monarchs, Their Majesties Kings Hassan II and Juan Carlos I. These fraternal ties have helped our countries iron out any difficulties that may have emerged.

With regard to bilateral economic relations, our cooperation is constantly becoming stronger and growing to the benefit of both our peoples, though this has not yet enabled us to correct the imbalance in our trade. New economic prospects have emerged within the framework of the exploitation of our phosphate products at (Jorf Lasfar).

As far as sea fishing is concerned, our two countries, aware of the prime importance of this sector, aim to establish a framework for long-term stable and comprehensive cooperation capable of protecting both their interests. In tourism precise projects have been drawn up. This is a sector that can develop still further and that, as one Spanish minister said, is an "industry of peace" that we can develop in a complementary way. Trade is active but characterized by a major development of our imports in relation to our exports, which results in a chronic deficit to Morocco's detriment.

This deterioration in the balance of trade to Morocco's detriment, together with a number of difficulties concerning the transport of our agricultural products, worries us. We are convinced, however, that acceptable solutions will be found that will make a new dynamism in our relations possible.

This new thrust will, I believe, be what characterizes our economic and industrial relations as a whole. Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez' visit will not fail to impart a necessary political impetus for substantial progress to be made in all these sectors.

Question: Do the present differences of system prompt any kind of apprehension in Morocco?

Answer: No, not at all. We have no apprehensions. Spain is a sovereign country where free democratic interplay is exercized. The Spanish Socialist Workers Party's accession to power and Felipe Gonzalez' election as prime minister was the conclusion of that democratic process. That was the Spanish people's choice.

Felipe Gonzalez and his government team have adopted a line of conduct characterized from the moment of his investiture speech by moderation and realism. This is extremely significant, and the 4 months of Socialist government demonstrate that this line has been pursued. Be that as it may, Morocco and Spain are two neighboring countries with so many shared interests and such a rich historical past that they are rightly aware that the stability and interests of the one can only benefit the other.

But if some skeptic were to nurture any apprehensions, the fact that Felipe Gonzalez chose to pay his first official foreign visit to Morocco nullifies such uncertainties. Furthermore, we are particularly sensitive to this highly symbolic gesture.

Question: So is the cooperation through the year 2000 as envisaged with the previous Union of the Democratic Center government still possible?

Answer: Morocco cooperates fruitfully and extensively with countries with different political systems. We have no hang-ups in this regard. Every people and nation choose the system that suits them. As long as these relations develop on the basis of respect and sovereignty, mutual benefit, and equal rights, there is no reason to have any reservations about maintaining broad cooperation between states with different systems.

Furthermore, Morocco and Spain do not have such different systems as you imply, since they are both constitutional monarchies that trust in democracy and respect for individual and public rights. Everything encourages us to lay the foundations for cooperation through the year 2000: our history, our proximity, our social and cultural ties, our shared economic interests, and the relations between our sovereigns. All these factors encourage us to further strengthen our relations.

As you know, our two countries have jointly undertaken the examination of a large-scale project -- the permanent link between Tangers and Algeciras, which will become the living symbol of this very long-term cooperation not only between Morocco and Spain but also between Europe and Africa. And it goes without saying that the two littoral communities on the north and south shores of the Mediterranean will derive only benefits from them, turning this sea into a lake of peace, in accordance with a time-honored formula.

Question: So what does Morocco expect from this visit?

Answer: As I said, we are very sensitive to it and believe that it must have a lofty political significance for both our countries. It is the first time that his majesty the king will have received the prime minister of the Spanish Socialist government and also the first time I will have had the pleasure of receiving Felipe Gonzalez. You know how these direct human contacts frequently, not to say always, make it possible to intensify mutual ties. It is they that permit the establishment of a climate of real trust that will eliminate any drawbacks that may temporarily burden relations between two countries destined to get along.

Question: In that case could you tell me why the visit due to be paid to Madrid by three Moroccan ministers on 17 March was postponed, thus making it unlikely that the overall cooperation agreement will be signed during the prime minister's visit?

Answer: The Spanish prime minister's visit augurs an era of even greater dynamization of cooperation than now exists. The Moroccan ministers' visit to Spain was postponed until after Felipe Gonzalez' official visit to Morocco. The visit was postponed only 3 weeks. One must not attribute to the postponement a significance that it does not have.

Question: In conclusion, Prime Minister, your November 1981 government program mentioned Ceuta and Melilla. Would you like to broach this topic with Felipe Gonzalez?

Answer: We have set no agenda for the conversations we will have during Felipe Gonzalez' visit. We will discuss all the problems that affect us in the frank and friendly atmosphere that has characterized our relations. There will be no taboo subjects.

HASSAN REPORTEDLY CALLS ARAB SUMMIT FOR 16-17 APR

LD022322 Kuwait KUNA in English 1605 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Text] Rabat, April 2 (KUNA) -- King Hassan II of Morocco will despatch tomorrow envoys to all Arab capitals to officially invite Arab leaders to an emergency summit meeting scheduled for Rabat on April 16 and 17, according to well-informed sources here Saturday.

KUNA learned that the envoys will include Foreign Minister M'hammed Boucetta and leaders of political parties. Adviser of the Moroccan monarch Mohammed Redha Ghadirah will head for Amman, and Moroccan ambassador at the Foreign Ministry Redha al-Filali will leave for the two Yemens, the sources said. Boucetta will convey the invitation to the Syrian, Algerian, and Libyan heads of state, according to the sources who declined to be identified.

The sources affirmed that the upcoming summit will determine prospects for possible peace negotiations in the region, and noted that the (?summit) will not be preceded by preliminary talks to assess the outcome of shuttles by the Arab League seven-man delegation as was speculated earlier.

The significance of the summit is expected to hinge primarily on the outcome of talks today in Amman between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan, since an agreement between the two leaders to jointly enter the peace talks is a key factor for any (?successes of) the proposed negotiations.

Messages Delivered

LD052101 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Today, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs M'hamed Boucetta handed Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid a personal message from His Majesty King Hassan II connected with the contacts currently taking place for the convening of the emergency Arab summit for which his majesty has called.

M'hamed Boucetta arrived in Tunis this evening bearing a message from His Majesty King Hassan II to President Habib Bourguiba, and similar messages to the PLO leaders and Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in connection with the situation in the Arab world following recent developments in the Arab arena. He conferred this evening with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali.

In a statement to the press, M'hamed Boucetta said that he has come to Tunis to invite the Republic of Tunisia, the PLO, and the Arab League secretary general to take part in the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Morocco in the next few days. He explained that this summit will evaluate the situation in the Arab world and examine the joint Arab action which ought to be taken in the future with regard to the Palestinian issue and to Arab issues in general.

SUDAN

FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTER MADANI'S STATEMENT

JN041958 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 4 Apr (SUNA) -- Mustafa Madani, minister of state for foreign affairs, has explained that Sudan's awareness of its unequivocal Arab affiliation has dictated that it formulate the principles, basis, and objectives of its foreign policy in such a manner as to reaffirm its commitment to this affiliation and translate this commitment into deeds, not words, on all the issues of interest to the Arab nation.

Mustafa Madani said this at the People's Assembly session this morning in reply to a question by an assembly member on Sudan's policy toward Arab League resolutions and why Sudan alone, of all the Arab countries, abides by them.

Madani added that Sudan has decided to spare no effort and to persistently work to enhance the Arab nation's dignity, unite its word, and achieve its objectives. Madani said that Sudan has worked to eliminate differences, bridge the gap, and achieve Arab solidarity because it believes that the Arab nation's objectives can be achieved only if this nation is united and cohesive.

In reply to a question by another assembly member on the subversive acts carried out by the Libyan regime against Sudan, Madani said: I am not saying anything new when I speak about the Libyan regime's role in the conspiracies concocted against Sudan, its recurrent attempts to harm the security and stability of our country, and its destruction of Sudan's development. This has become known to everyone in our country in detail.

He added that Sudan resorted to its estrangement from the Libyan regime only after it had exhausted all the means to maintain sound relations with it based on the principles of good-neighborliness and noninterference in domestic affairs.

Madani said that the Libyan regime has proved irrefutably that conspiracies and sabotage constitute the main pillars of its policy, which seeks to satisfy the greed of its leaders for expansion and the imposition of their influence through terrorism and force. He added: Completely aware of the objectives of the Libyan regime and the conspiratorial schemes of its leaders, Sudan continues to follow closely and alertly the various activities of this regime and its suspect moves, either those carried out by the Libyan regime directly or those of its agents, who have accepted the humiliation of becoming mercenaries at the expense of their nationalism and dignity. Madani added that Sudan has proved in practice that it is capable of foiling all attempts by Al-Qadhdhafi and of defeating all his schemes targeting Sudan's security and stability.

Madani stressed that Sudan has reaffirmed its firm support for the Islamic countries in their efforts to liberate Arab Jerusalem and not to accept any solution that would restrict Arab sovereignty over that city. For this purpose, Sudan has employed all its potential to confront the Israeli decision to annex Jerusalem and to oppose any trend that would lead to giving any kind of legitimacy to the Israeli decision. That is why Sudan has had the honor to be an active member in the Jerusalem committee stemming from the Islamic summit conferences.

Madani said that Sudan has among the first countries to declare an explicit stand on the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. It declared this stand immediately after the Soviet forces entered Afghanistan. He added: We have reiterated this stand in all international and regional forums and have abided by the resolutions adopted by the Islamic countries' foreign ministers on not dealing with the present regime in Afghanistan.

Madani stressed that Sudan will continue to support the Afghan people's struggle and will continue to call on all the Islamic peoples to express solidarity with the Afghan people until they regain their dignity and freedom. He added that Sudan has exerted great effort to alleviate the sufferings of the Muslim minorities which are dispersed throughout the world.

Madani highlighted the large role which is being played by Sudan's regional and international foreign activity to expose the Libyan regime's expansionist aims and enlighten the fraternal Libyan people and the African, Arab, and international public opinion as to Libya's ambitions, terrorism, plotting, and treason. This, he added, helped deepen the isolation of the Libyan regime and weaken this regime's ability to carry out its subversive acts. This is confirmed by the fact that the Libyan invasion of Chad has completely failed due to Sudan's enlightened confrontation of it.

Regarding sisterly neighbor Ethiopia, the minister said that the situation is completely different because our relations with it and with other neighboring states are based on strong pillars of understanding, mutual respect, and good-neighborliness. He added: We and our brothers in Ethiopia have always been eager to solve all the problems and obstacles affecting bilateral relations through constructive dialogue and through diplomatic channels. Moreover, he said, there is a joint ministerial committee between us entrusted with the task of discussing all issues of common interest, of developing relations, and of promoting bilateral cooperation in all fields.

One of the People's Assembly members asked about [words indistinct] Ethiopia the armed men who enter Sudan, adding that they enter Sudan, the southern region, and our eastern borders.

He asked: If our relations with Ethiopia are good, from which country in the east do the Muslims get into southern Sudan? The minister replied that the Foreign Ministry, in cooperation with competent authorities, is carefully watching everything that affects the state security.

He added that our relations with Ethiopia are good and that by saying so he means that these relations will continue to improve. He indicated that anything which may disturb these relations can find an answer in these good relations. He added that the member's question falls within this framework, noting that our relations with Ethiopia through the joint committee can remove all the fears cited by that member.

Another member asked the minister to explain the intentions and directives to deal with the instability caused by the recent incidents in the southern region. The minister replied: Everyone knows that there are dangers on our borders, in the east and elsewhere. Regarding Ethiopia, I have already stressed that our (?relations) with it within the framework of the joint committee can deal with such matters. As to the dangers posed by Libya, we have severed our diplomatic relations with it and are closely watching its conspiratorial moves. As a result of this we discovered last year's February plot.

Another member said that the Libyan authorities' conspiratorial moves aginst Sudan are due to the international struggle between the two superpowers. He added that what Libya is doing is part of this plotting [as received]. He then asked: What is the Sudanese Foreign Ministry's position at the international forums on the states which encourage Libya and others? The minister replied, expressing his agreement to the first part, and asserting that Sudanese diplomacy is working abroad to expose all Libyan plots. He added: We have certain stands toward the concerned states.

TUNISIA

OFFICIAL SOURCE DENIES MZALI CABINET RESHUFFLE

LD041726 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] Tunis, 4 Apr (KUNA) -- An official Tunisian source today denied a press report concerning the intention of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to reshuffle the government of M'hamed Mzali.

This source, who requested that his name not be disclosed, told KUNA that the report on this ministerial reshuffle carried by the weekly AR-RA'Y, published by the opposition politican Hasib ibn 'Ammar, in its latest issue published last Saturday "has no connection with the truth and is nothing but speculation."

MOROCCO'S BOUCETTA ARRIVES ON WORKING VISIT

LD052024 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Summary] M'hamed Boucetta, Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs and King Hassan's personal envoy, has arrived in Tunis on a working visit. In a statement to a radio correspondent, Boucetta said he has a message to President Bourguiba from King Hassan II on issues concerning the two countries and particularly the Arab world.

LEADERS MEET WITH BULGARIA'S TANCHEV 5 APRIL

President Bourguiba

LD052146 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The head of state today showed interest in relations with Bulgaria when he received the secretary general of the National Agrarian Union and deputy chairman of the State Council of Bulgaria, Petur Tanchev, who said that the meeting was held in a very cordial atmosphere.

During the meeting, reference was made to the historic action the foundations of which were laid by Presidents Habib Bourguiba, dean of the African presidents, and Zhivkov, dean of the socialist states' presidents, years ago in order to establish fruitful cooperation between Tunisia and Bulgaria. Petur Tanchev said his visit is within this framework, seeking to consolidate relations between the two countries at government and party levels. Tanchev added that he had extended to the head of state Zhivkov's greetings and that the president asked him to extend his greetings and feelings of appreciation to the Bulgarian president and his wishes of further progress and prosperity for the Bulgarian people.

The meeting was attended by M. Kooli, director of the party and minister accredited to the premier, and the Bulgarian ambassador to Tunisia.

Foreign Minister

LD052223 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi this morning received Petur Tanchev, deputy chairman of the State Council of Bulgaria. Tanchev explained that the meeting, which was characterized by openness, dealt with economic and social cooperation between the two countries. He added that he reviewed the international situation, especially in the Middle East, with Es-Sebsi. On that occasion, he confirmed his country's support for [words indistinct].

TANZANIA

NYERERE DECLARES WAR ON SMUGGLERS, RACKETEERS

AB051723 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Dar es Salaam, April 5 (AFP) -- Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere today declared a "full war" against smugglers and foreign currency racketeers as part of his campaign to steer the country to economic recovery. "In this campaign," the president said, "all Tanzanians will be expected to cooperate and assist the government by exposing the culprits who have been sabotaging our national economy."

The war on racketeers and smugglers was announced when President Nyerere addressed a hurriedly convened meeting of government and party leaders here. Mr Nyerere said the nationwide campaign (?against) the racketeers began on March 25, when police reportedly recovered 17.3 million shillings (almost two million dollars) in a search of the homes of suspects in all 20 regions on mainland Tanzania. He said that he planned to use the money to open up government-run farms where the culprits would work as a punishment. He said the operation was confined to suspects in foreign currency rackets. Some foreign exchange and consumer goods worth millions of Tanzanian shillings were also found hidden in the search.

The president said he was shocked "when I was taken to a private warehouse a few days ago where I found the stored goods and spareparts which make the central government store look like a joke." He also revealed the case of a non-licenced trader who was found with an "incredible amount of goods, and we wondered how this man managed to bring all these goods into the country."

The foreign currency racket was not restricted to Tanzanians alone, he said. "Even diplomatic missions accredited to this country are also involved by exchanging their dollars for local currency in black markets to run their offices," he said. (The black market rate for the dollar is over five times the official rate of nine shillings.)

The government has not yet decided the punishment against those arrested, he said, but he ruled out the possibility of court action. "In some countries, such people would have faced a firing squad. In Tanzania, we do not have such a practice and we, therefore, do not intend to use it. But we have other means of dealing with them and we shall use those alternative means," he said. "Firstly we shall confiscate their property and secondly we shall confine them to land work for a sustained long period of time." He said he has already directed his newly-appointed prime minister Edward Sokoine to look for empty land where the government could open state farms.

Mr Nyerere hinted that the number of arrested suspects was large and that it included some big names.

The campaign was still underway, he said. People who showed reluctance to help would face dismissal from their jobs. "We know that some senior party leaders are involved in the racket business and we are now giving them time to adjust and cooperate and we shall soon announce the deadline during which they would be expected to conform," he added.

My Nyerere warned that the campaign will not help Tanzania to recover from its economic problems, but said that it would contribute in a small way to lessening the hardships which Tanzanians suffer.

LIBERIA

POLITICIANS WHO WANT TO RUN IN 1985 MUST RESIGN

AB302133 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Potential politicians now serving the PRC [People's Redemption Council] government who are desirous of running for office in 1985 when Liberia returns to civilian rule are to make their positions clear within 30 days, beginning 30 March to 30 April this year, by resigning their posts. The ultimatum was given today by head of state Samuel Doe when he received the draft Constitution from the 25-member National Constitution Commission set up by the PRC in April 1981 to draft a new constitution for Liberia. Chairman Doe stressed that failure on the part of potential politicians to declare their intention in the stated (?deadline) [words indistinct] would be barred from politics when the appropriate time comes. He pointed out that the action was necessary since divided interests would not serve our country well at this time of our revolution.

DOE: PRC MEMBERS TO BE RETIRED AUTOMATICALLY

AB012127 Monrovia Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] The chairman of the PRC [People's Redemption Council], head of state Samuel Kanyon Doe, says members of the PRC and other top military officials are automatically retired once they return to the barracks.

In an exclusive interview with the DAILY OBSERVER newspaper, the head of state was quoted as saying that the time given politically ambitious officials to state their intentions and resign would not be extended. Officials of government who choose to engage (?after that time in) political activities, according to the head of state, will be dismissed and barred from politics when the current ban on politics is lifted.

Liberia is to return to civilian rule in 1985. So far there is no news of any government officials who have indicated an intention to resign. The head of state says those who resign will be audited and they can improve their relations with the people while waiting for the ban on politics to be lifted. The head of state also told the independent DAILY OBSERVER newspaper in its exclusive interview with him that he was not aware of any member of the PRC who had political ambitions for 1985.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI SAYS STATES SHOULD MEET OBLIGATIONS

AB052200 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Excerpt] President Shehu Shagari has said that it is disastrous for any government to find itself in a situation where it cannot meet its obligations to its employees. Such a government, he stated, did not deserve to be returned to power. The president made the remark in Yola today at a rally where he presented the National Party of Nigeria gubernatorial candidate for Gongola state, Alhaji Bamanga Tukur, and his running mate, Mr (Deye) Barau. He said as a result of the reckless spending of some state governments they have been in arrears for the payment of their workers' salaries for many months. President Shagari denied that the Federal Government was responsible for such a situation as claimed by the defaulting state governments.

He recalled the recent release of 200 million naira to the states to enable them meet their obligations to their workers, but he regretted that a number of them were still in default because the money they received had changed hands. The president said because of the attitude of some governments it will be necessary for the Federal Government to make public all allocations to the states as well as [words indistinct].

On the mood of politics in the country, President Shagari called for a new style of politics. This would be politics of unity and achievements where political parties will hope for votes on the basis of what they had done in the states since they were in power. The president said the new style of politics should be devoid of abuses, thuggery, and violence because Nigeria could not be built in crisis and confusion but in peace and unity. He stated that the Federal Government has established a strong basis in Gongola state which could be seen in roads, structures, water, education, health, and shelter as well as industry.

GOVERNMENT, OTHERS FORM TIN PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

AB010854 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Nigeria and six other tin-producing countries have agreed to set up a new association aimed at promoting greater self-reliance and cooperation among members. The decision to establish the Association of Tin Producing Countries, ATPC, was reached following a 2-day ministerial meeting in London attended by Nigeria, Australia, Bolivia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Zaire.

The new body will strive to achieve remunerative and equitable returns for tin producers and ensure adequate supply to consumers at fair and stable prices. They will also facilitate cooperation among members on tin marketing and extend the use of modern technology through research and development. Another objective will be to encourage processing and manufacturing of tin products in member countries to promote their industrial development and increase export earnings. Of the seven countries at the London meeting, Malaysia is the largest producer with 34.8 percent of total world output. Nigeria produces 1.39 percent of the world output.

SENEGAL

THIAM ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT

AB021141 Paris AFP in French 1107 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Senegalese Prime Minister Habib Thiam, 50, was on Saturday elected president of Senegal's National Assembly which met for the first time since the 27 February legislative elections. Consequently, Mr Thiam must give up his functions as prime minister, a post which he has held since 1 January 1981. Mr Thiam was unanimously elected by the 111 parliamentarians from the Socialist Party, the only ones present at the assembly following the boycott by the nine members of the opposition that were elected. He succeeds Amadou Cisse Dia, who has been president of the Senegalese National Assembly since 1968.

DIOUF SAYS PRIME MINISTER'S POST TO BE ABOLISHED

AB041021 Dakar Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] (?In his nationwide message) head of state Abdou Diouf announced his intention to step to the forefront to lead Senegal's destiny.

The head of state also announced that he will make proposals for the reform of the Constitution with a view to abolishing the post of prime minister.

[Begin Abdou Diouf recording] The government, which is charged with implementing a policy of revival at this particularly difficult time, should be able to carry out its mission with even greater efficiency, rapidity, and simplicity. In this connection, it is essential for such a government to work under the direct authority of the head of state. The time has thus come for constitutional changes to be effected to enable the head of state to lead, to motivate, and to supervise the administration directly. Because of this need for the efficient, harmonious, and rapid functioning of the state machinery, I will make proposals to the National Assembly for a constitutional reform aimed at abolishing the post of prime minister. First, I want to make the following point clear. In making this decision, I make it a point to conform myself to the national interest. I also make it a point to satisfy the stated desire of the broad majority of the Senegalese people to see the head of state directly committed on the forefront to the running of the state's affairs. I am prompted only by that objective need and by nothing else.

Many observers of Africa will probably be surprised by the measure. For everywhere in Africa, the tendency is rather to create and maintain that post. To avoid mixing up things, one must always recall that the Senegalese experience is a specific one, and that in fact, this recentralization exercise is only the inner aspect in the process of simplifying and rationalizing the state's structures, a process which was launched 2 years ago. You will remember that since 1981 we have tried in fact to reduce the overload on the administration and to make it less complex, less slow, and above all less bureaucratic. This operation led to the abolition of many commissions and tedious and useless procedures. Contrary to what one may think, following the amendment draft, the legislator will receive greater power and independence. This is demonstrated among other things by the fact that the speaker of the National Assembly will be the second authority of the state, and he will replace the president of the republic in case of hindrance. Lastly, I will add that such a presidential regime is perfectly consistent with our other stated determination to achieve devolution. This can be seen in the Cap Vert regional reform which gives greater power and autonomy to urban communities. The latter will now be responsible for the running of their own affairs. In a world full of crises and uncertainties calling for rapid decision, and in a state provided with a constitution and attached to law, in a developing country where the president must always listen to his fellow citizens, the reform of the Constitution should make it possible for the government to usher in a strong policy of changes. [end recording]

In his nationwide message, President Abdou Diouf expressed his determination to find ways and means of filling the loopholes in the present multiparty system. He urged the Senegalese to safeguard and improve the democratic system instead of endeavoring to question it through [words indistinct]. On the economic front, President Abdou Diouf announced the changes which he intends to effect. First, he will take radical measures to solve the problems facing the rural masses, especially through the diversification of agricultural production in order to achieve self-sufficiency in foodstuff, and through the mastering of water resources based on the strengthening of the hydraulic facilities.

SOW APPOINTED AS PARLIAMENTARY GROUP PRESIDENT

AB021353 Paris AFP in French 1110 GMT 2 Apr 83

[Text] Dakar, 2 Apr (AFP) -- Dr Daouda Sow, 50, has been appointed president of the parliamentary group of Senegal's Socialist Party [PS] at the National Assembly that was elected on 27 February and is holding its first session today.

The appointment of Dr Sow, minister of the armed forces, presupposes that he will not be in the next government which will be formed soon after the swearing in of President Abdou Diouf on Sunday.

Dr Sow was nominated during a meeting of the parliamentary group of the PS extended to include members of the Political Bureau and presided over by Abdou Diouf who is also the secretary general of the PS.

The PS won 111 out of the 120 seats in the National Assembly. The eight parliamentarians of the Senegalese Democratic Party and the sole elected candidate of the National Democratic Rally have made it known that they will not sit in the assembly as a sign of protest against the "fraud" of the 27 February elections.

SENEGAMBIA

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED

AB052058 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Here is an announcement on the reshuffle of the Council of Ministers of the Senegambia confederation. The president of the confederation, in view of the pact between the Republic of Gambia and the Republic of Senegal instituting the Confederation of Senegambia and signed in Dakar on 17 December 1981, in particular Article 10; in view of the protocol agreement between the Republic of Gambia and the Republic of Senegal on the institutions of the Senegambia Confederation and signed in Banjul on 2 July 1982, in particular Articles 2 and 14; in view of Act Number 4 of 25 October 1982 on the Constitution of the Council of Ministers of the Senegambia Confederation and the nomination of its members; and in view of the approval of the vice president, the confederation has decided:

Article 1: The functions of Confederal Minister of Defense Daouda Sow have been terminated.

Article 2: The functions of the Confederal Minister of Security Medine Fall have been terminated.

Article 3: The functions of Confederal Minister of Transportation Hassan Seck have been terminated.

Article 4: Medoune Fall has been appointed confederal minister of defense.

Article 5: Ibrahima Wone has been appointed confederal minister of security.

Article 6: Robert Sanya has been appointed confederal minister of transportation.

Thus, here is the list of the confederal ministers:

Moustapha Niasse	External relations,
(Lamine Kusidiabon)	Minister delegate for external relations,
Medoune Fall	Defense,
Ibrahima Wone	Security,
Cheik Feikula Cisse	Finance,
Mamaudou (Mannix)	Economic affairs,
Alioune (Baddy)	Minister delegate for security,
Robert Senya	Transportation,
Djibo Ka	Information and telecommunications

ANGOLA

SWAPO DEFENSE SECRETARY DIES IN ACCIDENT

AB051511 Paris AFP in English 1444 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] Luanda, April 5 (AFP) -- Peter Manyemba, defense secretary of the South West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO) has been killed in a road accident in southern Angola, it was reported here today.

The Angolan news agency ANGOP, quoting a statement from the Namibian nationalist movement, said that Mr Manyemba, who was a member of SWAPO's Political Bureau and the Central Committee, died on Friday when his car crashed into a petrol tanker in Lubango, capital of Huila Province.

Mr Manyemba was generally considered to be the second most influential figure in SWAPO, after the organization's leader, Sam Nujoma.

A deputy field commander of SWAPO's military wing, James Auala, was tipped by black nationalist sources in Windhoek today as the most likely candidate to succeed Mr Manyemba, SAPA reported in Johannesburg, while the South African press said that SWAPO faces a possible leadership struggle following the defence secretary's death.

FORMER FNLA COMMANDER CLAIMS CIA SUPPORT

AB051224 Luanda Domestic Service in French 1110 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The CIA and the NATO countries are still giving support to the counterrevolutionary Angolan National Liberation Front, FNLA, in its acts against Angola.

This was disclosed yesterday by Commander Barreiros, the former chief of general staff of the movement. Commander Barreiros, who surrendered recently to the Angolan authorities with seven other officials of the movement, told the press in Luanda yesterday that his surrender was only a response to the appeal made in Cabinda in 1978 by the late President Agostinho Neto for all countrymen belonging to puppet movements and wanting to surrender to the country's legal authorities with a view to participating in national reconstruction to feel free to do so. Commander Barreiros also pointed out that another reason for his surrender was that he was expelled from the FNLA for he had lost the trust of that puppet organization's leadership. Listen to his appeal:

[Begin Barreiros recording in French] The time is opportune. The time has come for you to come back to your country, this nice, beautiful country envied by [word indistinct] and endowed with mineral resources in very considerable quantity.

I am making this appeal to you, in particular to you intellectuals, to you people, and to you farmers: Come home for the national reconstruction. The enemy will not lay down arms today, nor tomorrow. But thanks to your contribution and to the achievements of Comrade Antonio Agostinho Neto, and with your participation and efforts, we -- already in the country -- strongly believe that we will make a step forward. And we will succeed in checking the advance of racist South Africans who are using every means to destabilize our country. Wherever you are now, remember that you are still aliens. Your presence and your participation in the war for the national reconstruction is indispensable.

We henceforth call for your understanding and your patriotism for this beautiful country so you will feel that you are Angolans. Whatever you ages or your social positions, return to your country for national reconstruction efforts with the comrades of the MPLA-Labor Party who are receiving us thanks to the clemency of Comrade President Dr Agostinho Neto, which was expressed in his Cabinda appeal. I believe that the clemency is not discriminatory. The doors are open to all Angolan children whatever their education level. Come back for the reconstruction of the country.

I, the person speaking to you now, am the former FNLA chief of general staff, Commander Barreiros. I am flanked by Comrade Commander Figueira, also a former cofounding member of the Kipungo base, and by Comrade Commander Neves, who is also a cofounder of the Kipungo base. We did not precede you in order to block the road but to open it to you and to make you return to your country. I am appealing to you to think over the appeal. I am not making this appeal under threats by armed men. I am addressing you freely, as an Angolan citizen. I thank you. [end recording]

The surrender of these FNLA officials strengthens the fair policy of the MPLA-Labor Party which shows tolerance toward all those who have once worked against the interests of the people and for international imperialism.

UNITA ON NEED FOR TALKS WITH SOUTH AFRICA

MB051957 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 1 Apr 83

[UNITA radio, unattributed commentary]

[Text] The MPLA does not dare to explain its acts to the people, not even to its members. Otherwise we would have had to ask what happened to the meeting held in Ilha do Sal on 8 December 1982 between a 40-strong delegation of the MPLA-Labor Party and a South African delegation led by Minister Roleof Botha. Until now not a single member of the MPLA, not even its own president, has had the courage to inform the Angolan people and the party militants. Since it is a question of war or peace, this ambiguous attitude only shows that the MPLA leaders do not trust their own members.

After Kaunda, we had predicted that the MPLA itself would talk to the South African leaders. This has happened, and it unequivocally shows that South Africa is a permanent member of southern Africa, where we live. Whether we like it or not, we will have to talk with South Africa sooner or later. If we were situated in the north of Africa, or even in another parallel of our continent, we could afford the luxury of ignoring South Africa. In a situation like ours, particularly that of Angola, it is unthinkable to turn our backs on South Africa. As the pioneer of the 1974 talks with the Portuguese Government, UNITA reiterates once again its stance. When UNITA started talking to the Portuguese Government there were hoarse voices from abroad that called us traitors. Later on, however, they followed the same path that UNITA had outlined.

We have no doubts whatsoever that MPLA will hold the talks with South Africa. We have no doubts in our minds that southern African countries will sooner or later hold talks with South Africa. We hope that when it happens the African countries do it in defense of the interests of the continent and in defense of the peoples they represent as elected leaders. We think that the solution to all of southern Africa's problems, namely political, economic, and military, has necessarily to pass through direct contact with South Africa.

We in UNITA have also another opinion. Apart from the direct contacts that must be encouraged between southern African countries and South Africa, we also need to make South Africa understand that its own survival depends on frank dialogue.

In doing so we believe that we are contributing in a substantial manner to the strengthening of our own independence and also giving South Africa our views on the solution to the problem. In attacking, insulting, and waging war against South Africa we can expect nothing but disaster, destruction, frustration, and derailment of our young economies, and of our still-fragile constitutions. It is only through dialogue with South Africa, and only by understanding its interests in the region, that we can not only safeguard our interests, but also influence the destiny of southern because South Africa is a political and economic power, and as such it has its own interests.

MOZAMBIQUE

RENAMO NOTICE: ROADS MINED; AMBUSHES PLANNED

MB051418 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Africa in Portuguese to Mozambique 1700 GMT 1 Apr 83

["Notice" issued by the headquarters of the Mozambique National Resistance -- date not given]

[Text] The Samora Machel government has been infiltrating agents disguised as members of the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] into the areas where our forces operate. They rob and massacre the people in an attempt to discredit Renamo and to undercut the support Renamo gets from the people of Mozambique. Such a practice dates back to 1980 and was first introduced in the Espungabera area, where Frelimo agents cut off ears, raped women, and plundered villages. Some agents were captured and executed by firing squad. Others were forced to leave the area, and they fled to Zimbabwe, a country from which the Frelimo government would infiltrate them back into the operational areas. The same thing is now happening in the Gaza and Inhamane Provinces where, as we move forward, we take notice of self-proclaimed Renamo groups which were already operating in the areas before the arrival of Renamo. There they committed crimes on instructions from the Machel government. We are aware of the maneuvers of Machel's murderers, and we hope to capture them soon and punish them accordingly.

In order to impede the logistical support of the Frelimo troops, and to hamper the movement of military vehicles, combat vehicles, and tanks, our forces are mining and ambushing all roads in an area stretching from the Zambezi River to the Ibharrime-Panda-Chibuto-Massingire parallel. In the past we have warned the civilian population not to travel on roads that run through the operational areas where they could be subjected to mine explosions and ambushes when traveling in military convoys. The same warning goes to the railway workers who operate on the Malvernia-Maputo and Machipanda-Beira lines.

The Maputo communist government cannot give any guarantees of protection. Instead it provokes attacks by our forces whenever its troops are used to escort trains and military vehicles on road convoys.

The struggle continues. Freedom or death, victory is ours.

NEW PENALTIES FOR ROBBERY, RAPE, BLACK MARKETING

MB020526 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 1 Apr 83

[Text] Mozambique is introducing harsher penalties for serious crimes. Convicted robbers, child rapists, and black marketeers will be given public flogging, according to a new law announced today by the parliament's permanent commission.

The new measure is being introduced because jail terms have not acted as the deterrent, as the preamble to the law says. The flogging is to be mandatory for robbers, child rapists, and black marketeers, as well as for those convicted of security offences, smuggling, and currency dealing. Lesser crimes may also carry public flogging sentences.

During the latest People's Assembly, President Samora Machel said that for hardened criminals accustomed to prison, jail simply means being with friends with free bed and board.

SOUTH AFRICA

PRIME MINISTER: REFERENDUM FOR WHITES ONLY

MB051052 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 5 Apr 83 p 1

[By John Battersby, political correspondent]

[Text] The prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, is keeping under wraps his future plans for testing the government's constitutional legislation in the Coloured and Indian communities.

In response to the mounting pressure from Coloured and Indian leaders and from the opposition in Parliament, Mr Botha yesterday repeated that the proposed referendum announced last week was for white voters to decide "at a suitable time and on a suitable date, on the principle contained in the new draft Constitution. "Referendums for the other two population groups are therefore not under consideration at this stage," Mr Botha said.

After announcing the white referendum last week Mr Botha said that attention could be given at a later stage to the question of referenda in the Coloured and Indian communities.

Since then the Labour Party leader, the Reverend Allan Hendrickse, has said that Mr Botha is now under a "moral obligation" to hold a Coloured referendum and the SA Indian Council has called on the government to hold a referendum among Indian voters. The national chairman of the Progressive Federal Party, Mr Colin Eglin, yesterday attacked Mr Botha for dragging his heels on the question of Coloured and Indian referenda. "Now is the time for Mr Botha to say what his plans are if the referendum issue itself is not to become a matter of inter-racial dispute. The correct procedure is to have the referenda for the three groups simultaneously," he said.

A government-supporting newspaper quoted "Cabinet sources" yesterday as saying that the entire Constitution would be put to the voters at a referendum. However, this conflicts with the prime minister's statement in Parliament last week -- and again yesterday -- that the principle of the bill would be put in the form of a question to voters once the final bill had been approved by Parliament.

The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr. Chris Huenis, yesterday had no comment to make on reports that the whole Constitution would be put to the electorate. Mr. Eglin said yesterday that if the referendum was to have any value it should be held after the principle of the bill had been approved by Parliament but before the detail had been approved by Parliament. This was the procedure followed by Dr H.E. Verwoerd with the republic referendum in 1960 and was the only reasonable course to follow, Mr Eglin said.

COMMUNITY LEADER KILLED PROTESTING REMOVALS

MB030838 Johannesburg SUNDAY TIMES in English 3 Apr 83 p 1

[Excerpt] A black community leader died after shots were fired by a policeman yesterday at a meeting that was being held to oppose the government's resettlement plans for thousands of Driefontein residents of the Transvaal. Mr Saul Mkhize, who has led local resistance to the government's removal scheme, died shortly after being hit by a bullet at Dirkeiesdorp, in the Wakkerstroom District, yesterday.

The shooting incident is said to have taken place after an altercation between the police and Mr Mkhize over whether special permission was needed to hold the meeting. A police spokesman confirmed that shots were fired when there was an "uproar" after the arrival of the police at the gathering. He said he had no further details, but police were investigating Mr Mkhize's death.

Mr Mkhize, the elected chairman of the Council of Directors of Driefontein, last week drafted a petition protesting against the government's plans to resettle black Driefontein landowners and other residents in the KwaZulu and Kangwane homelands.

It is understood that Mr Mkhize also wrote to the prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, last week, reiterating his plea for negotiations to be held on the future of the Driefontein land -- the title deeds of which have been held by black owners for the past 70 years.

COMMENTARY ON KAUNDA OFFER, SOVIET 'PROXIES'

MB060902 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Station commentary: "The Real Threat to Southern Africa"]

[Text] President Kaunda of Zambia, who chooses on occasion to assume the role of a broker in southern Africa issues, offered at the weekend to arrange a meeting between Prime Minister P.W. Botha, and Oliver Tambo and Sam Nujoma, leaders of the ANC and SWAPO. Courteously, but firmly, Mr Botha rejected the offer. He pointed out that his government negotiated continuously with elected black leaders in South Africa. However, he was not prepared to negotiate with representatives of revolutionary movements armed by the communist powers.

Mr Kaunda may well ponder on the southern African context in which this interchange took place. Tambo and Nujoma are the personification of a campaign for the domination of the subcontinent that is being waged largely by proxy by the Soviet Union. Its ultimate goal is the overthrow of the South African state. But the tools necessarily include subversion and then increasing control of black governments throughout the region. That that is so is common cause, more ominously that there is a trend, with the witting or unwitting support of some of the governments themselves, towards expanding the Soviet military involvement through proxies is clear from current events. The signs are emerging everywhere.

The American State Department notes that despite negotiations with Angola, the number of Cuban troops there has recently grown by 5,000. Cuban leader Fidel Castro hints at plans to dispatch more of his soldiers to Mozambique. Zimbabwe announced diplomatic ties with the Palestine Liberation Organization, a body so dependent on the Kremlin that it is being used for the training of ANC and SWAPO terrorists. Lesotho calls in the Soviet ambassador in Mozambique for consultations after last week's internal violence. Foreign ministers of the so-called frontline states gather in Lisbon, at a meeting even the Portuguese socialist parties boycott on the grounds that it is organized by Soviet fronts, and declare their need for undefined outside powers to strengthen their governments.

The events provide confirmation of the wide-ranging assessments that have come from two American Government departments in the past month. A Pentagon review notes that the Soviet Union is out to frustrate a political settlement in South Africa through bloodshed. The State Department, reviewing the rapid growth of the Kremlin's arms sales, states that its relations with key clients has matured and that it is consolidating its position.

The main thrust of Soviet policy now, says the Pentagon, is to eliminate Western influence and military access and establish pro-Soviet, anti-Western, regimes. The means are straightforward: arms -- always welcome for insecure governments and proxy forces. The State Department report details the progress. Soviet arms supplies to sub-Saharan Africa increased in 1981 to a record of over 2 billion rands. Apart from Ethiopia, the main clients were Angola and Mozambique. Others in southern Africa are Tanzania and Zambia. The report listed nearly 39,000 communist soldiers, military advisors and economic technicians in Angola and Mozambique alone. The threat is to all the countries of southern Africa, individually and collectively. President Kaunda could render a valuable service to the region and, not least to his own country, by displaying a greater awareness of it.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE SCORES CRITICISM BY CATHOLIC BISHOPS

MB060746 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 6 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, has attacked the Catholic bishops for criticizing the government military operations in Matabeleland. Addressing church leaders in Harare yesterday, Comrade Mugabe said criticism levelled at the government churchmen and voluntary organizations is unwarranted and one-sided. He said it is surprising that they have seen it fit to criticize the government for alleged atrocities in some parts of Matabeleland while ignoring the atrocities committed by the ZAPU and its dissidents.

The prime minister pointed out that the church leaders have no real knowledge or adequate appreciation of the situation facing the country, therefore they cannot lecture the government on the morality of the antidissident campaign. He challenged the church leaders to show him a single statement by the church or any cleric attacking ZAPU and its dissidents as the violators of human rights.

Comrade Mugabe criticized the bishops for alleging that the government was carrying out a tribal war against the Ndebele, when they had the full knowledge of the promised policies of the government. He stressed that it is the duty of all to examine [word indistinct] by carrying out practical investigations before drawing definite conclusions. He said the government is carrying out investigations of alleged atrocities and would review the evidence when found.

Comrade Mugabe called on the church to attune itself to the realities of a new Zimbabwe and aspire to serve the interests of the people. He said the government recognizes the good work being carried out by the churches but appealed to them not to pander to foreign so-called parent churches whose interests and perspectives are often at variance with the best interests of the people.

BANANA, MUGABE DENOUNCE 3 APR KILLINGS

MB051832 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Apr 83

[Text] The president, Comrade Banana, and the prime minister, Comrade Mugabe, today assured the nation that the government will spare no effort to hunt down, apprehend, and bring to justice those responsible for acts of banditry in the country.

The statement follows last Sunday's murder by a gang of armed criminals of Senator Paul Savage, his daughter, and a visiting friend from England on their farm between Collen Bawn and Gwanda, about 130 km south of Bulawayo.

The president called the killings senseless, adding that the government will hunt down perpetrators of such acts and bring them to justice. Comrade Mugabe said the government will not tolerate those who want to curtail Zimbabwe's hard-won independence. He said such brutal and barbaric acts cannot go unpunished. Comrade Mugabe says as a matter of urgency, the government will (?assist) farmers in establishing a guard system. Comrade Mugabe added that this is in addition to increasing the military's effective weaponry for their self-defence.

ZAPU RECRUITING ANTIREGIME FORCES IN BOTSWANA

NC042257 Paris AFP in English 2245 GMT 4 Apr 83

[Text] Harare, April 4 (AFP) -- Zimbabwean refugees at Dukwe camp in Botswana have told of a five-man rebel "military high command" in the camp who have been responsible for recruiting anti-government dissidents from Zimbabwe for military training in South Africa, the Zimbabwean news agency ZIANA reported today.

The refugees told a ZIANA reporter who visited the camp at the weekend that the "military high command" was composed of two members of the Central Committee of ZAPU, the opposition party of self-exiled leader Joshua Nkomo, and three former commanders of ZIPRA, the officially-disbanded guerrilla army of Mr Nkomo's party. The two members of the Central Committee had fled to Botswana recently with 93 other ZAPU supporters following Mr Nkomo's flight to that country, according to ZIANA. The refugees said the three former ZIPRA commanders had defected from the Zimbabwe National Army after Mr Nkomos's dismissal from Cabinet in February 1982 and had fled to Botswana to try to organize a new ZIPRA army which would fight against the Government of Zimbabwe.

The ex-ZIPRA commanders have been involved in the current rebel campaign of violence in Matabeleland, including some kidnappings, the refugees said.

The Botswana Government has repeatedly denied the presence of any ZIPRA military training camp in its territory. The ZIANA reporter said that no such camps could be found in Botswana but said there was evidence that training was being given in South Africa. One of the ex-ZIPRA commanders, who gave his name as Majuta Ndhlovu, said the military high command wanted to train an army of about 20,000 men which would fight the Zimbabwe National Army's Fifth Brigade, the elite North Korean-trained unit currently in Matabeleland and blamed by church groups and aid organizations for the deaths of more than one thousand civilians during its campaign since mid-January to control rebels in southwestern Zimbabwe.

Asked how he, from a black nationalist guerrilla army, could send men to train in South Africa, Mr Ndhlovu reportedly said: "You do not have to ask me that question, because when (Prime Minister Robert) Mugabe had his army trained by the (North) Koreans, no one asked him why." He said all the military high command wanted was to produce an army strong enough to be able to withstand the Fifth Brigade. "We feel the position of ZIPRA is threatened by the Fifth Brigade and we should have our own army," he said, according to the ZIANA report.